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Poetry.

KING TOMMY'S RISE AND FALL.

Tommy was ruled by his father and mother,
Tommy was bossed by his older brother.

Tommy was tyrannized over each hour
By a very small maid with the face of a flower,

But one day Tommy was given a wheel
And he felt like a king on a throne of steel.

Now a sudden rise from a serf to a king
Has always proven a dangerous thing.

The people who come into power too quick
Go up like a rocket and down like a stick.

King Tom, before the first day was done,
Was Emperor, Sultan, and Czar in one.

He owned the pavements he owned the street,
He ran the officers off their beat.

He frightened the coachmen out of their wits
As he scorched right under their horses' bits.

Pedestrians fled when they saw him approach,
He caused disaster to carriage and coach;

For he never turned out and his pace never slowed;
His bell was a signal to clear the road;

And I would not repeat, indeed, Not I,
What the truckman said when his bike went by.

King Tom only winked in their eyes with a grin,
Proud of his power to make them sin.

And bolder and bolder each day he grew,
And faster and faster his bicycle flew;

And he was certain he owned the earth
And all that was on it from girth to girth.

And he always got off without hurt or scratch,
Till all of a sudden he met his match.

Reigning one time in his usual splendor,
He came face to face with a Cable's fender.

He rang his bell for the right of way,
But a biker may ring till his hair turns gray,

And a Cable Car or its Cousin Trolley
Will pay no heed to that sort of folly.

All that King Tom recalls of that day
Was riding into the milky way.

Where he saw all the stars in the heavens.
Well,
There isn't much more of his reign to tell.

He gave his wheel to his brother Bill
And walks on two crutches and always will.

And he says as he looks at his wooden leg,
"I went up like a rocket and down like a peg."

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox, in the New York Sun.

COLINETTE.

"Colinette" she had for name
In a summer of my prime,
For the happy harvest time,
To her village home I came.
I was but a schoolboy yet,
But a simple girl was she,
And she died in February,
Little Colinette.

Up and down a leafy chase
Hand in hand we used to run;
How I reveled in the fun!
How she panted with the race!
Finch and linnet when we met
Sang our loves that knew no wrong,
Made the burden of their song
Little Colinette.

Then at length we met to part,
Sat with darkening skies above,
Love (I knew it not for love)
Throbbing to my inmost heart,
Hiding all my soul's regret,
"'Till another year," said I,
As I took her hand, "good-by,
Little Colinette."

Oh, the story's very old,
Very common, that I tell;
Not the less will tears upwell
Whensoe'er the story's told;
Many a witching young coquette
Now I woo with poet's pen;
Once alone I've loved, and then
Little Colinette.

—The Academy.

THE PHANTOM FLOWER.

'Twas winter, and a little girl
Of four short years stood gazing where
The snowflakes danced in 'wildering whirl
Their gay cotillions in the air
And rested on the branches bare.

Then rang sweet childish shouts of glee
With fair face pressed against the pane,
And capering feet. "O, mamma, see!
The apple blossoms come again
We lost last summer in the rain!"

"Nay, dearest, those white tufts are snow,"
Gently the mother's voice replies;
"Would you learn where the blossoms go?
Where, safely sheltered, softly lies
The ghost of every one that dies?

"Through this great apple, ripe and nice,
Watch how the blade I quickly send
To cut just wafer-wide a slice,
Across the core—you comprehend—
Betwixt the stem and blossom end!

"Now to the light hold up the fine
Red-vined, translucent, filmy round!
Look in the midst! Ah, daughter, mine,
What wondrous treasure have you found?
The blossom you deemed underground!"

—Bessie B. Croffut.

Miscellany.

AN 1830 HAT.

Is Eagerly Welcomed for Theatre Use—Does Not Obstruct the View.

The 1830 theatre hat is received with pleasant words as it reappears in the shop windows. Its spreading sides are becoming to most faces, and its odd shape makes it the ever-desired novelty.

At a first night performance there sat the other evening, holding a court of her own, a very brunette young woman, wearing a crown of gold, with irregular spreading brim, not very wide. The front was covered with a point of pearls and rhinestones.

OLD THEATRE HAT REVIVED.

The only trimming upon the hat was the inevitable white ostrich feather, with double loops of white velvet placed at each side. The back was plain, except for a large pearl and rhinestone ornament.

War's Greatest Cruelty.

"No," said the sober-faced man, "we do not want any more wars. We that know what wars are desire no further knowledge on the subject."

"Surely you could not have been old enough to be in the war of the rebellion!" exclaimed one of the party.

"No," said the sober-faced man, "but my father was, and if you knew how I have suffered from his war stories!"—Boston Transcript.

PETROLEUM V. NASBY.

INTERESTING REMINISCENCES BY PEOPLE WHO KNEW HIM.

His Love for Children—His Delightful Drollery—How He Became Acquainted With Grant.

Chicago Inter Ocean, Feb. 15, 1897.

"Does any one read Nasby now?" This question was flung at the crowd by the Doctor, who had been prowling about an old book-store and had emerged with a well-preserved copy of "The Struggles of Petroleum V. Nasby," with the name of D. R. Locke on the torn fly leaf. "This book proves nothing. I was moved to purchase it because it is an autograph copy, and I have no doubt it has a history. Did the first owner, he who had it from Nasby's own hands, have his ups and downs, and in one of his downs tear his name from the fly leaf and sell this book? Or is he dead and has a carefully collected library of American humor been scattered, the precious books kicked about as a boy would kick dead leaves?"

* * *

"I am always coming on some pathetic sort of surprise in these old book stores. Several years ago I found a rare edition of an old French work on the shelves of one of the smaller shops that sent my heart into my mouth. Years before I had seen those same volumes in the choice little library of an enthusiastic caresser of books in Boston. I knew he came West, but I had lost sight of him, and my first thought when I saw his precious books of old was that he was dead. I bought the books and turned myself into a detective to investigate. I learned that my friend had gone abroad in poor health, had remained longer than he planned, had sent for his family, and had transferred his house, furnished, to an old acquaintance, who, after a troublesome experience in the way of a fire, had stored the books, temporarily, in the barn, and the hostler had connived with the rag man to dispose of the older and, in his eyes, more disreputable looking books. My luck in rescuing one treasure has made me a prowler about book shops ever since."

* * *

"Just like a doctor," put in the Major. "But why don't you stick to your text? If the people of this generation don't read Nasby it is because they don't have the chance. His letters were running satires on the times in which he lived, and in action he was a corker. In the later years of the war I was on one of the vessels of the blockade squadron in front of Charleston, and nothing in the shape of literature gave us such a comfort as the Nasby letters. They came to us in country and city papers, in letters from friends at home, from comrades in remote divisions of the army. When we returned in 1865 we found everybody reading and talking about Nasby, and he certainly grew in popularity and influence up well into the '70s."

* * *

"It was early in the '70s," said the judge, "that I first saw Mr. Locke, and I have a vivid impression of his personality to this day. There was at that time a scheme to bring Mr. Locke to this city, and I was one of a self-appointed committee to urge upon him the advantages of Chicago to a man of his literary reputation and business qualifications. He was not very well and we were invited to his house to meet him. He received us cordially, but we did not get on satisfactorily at all. Locke seemed restive, and he certainly was restless. He kept his seat scarcely a minute while we were talking to him, but seemed to listen to every word that was said. There was on his strong, heavily molded features and in his gray-blue eyes a puzzling expression that indicated suspicion or irritation or amusement or interest. I felt that something must be done to break the ice, and was contemplating a plunge when the ice was broken for me. There came from the rooms above the cry or roar of a fretful child. Putting his fingers in his ears, Mr. Locke stepped to the door and shouted to the nurse, 'What's the matter with that boy?' There came in response a timid, hesitating voice saying, 'He wants the little French clock on the mantel.' Instantly Mr. Locke thundered, 'Give it to him; in heaven's name give it to him. No, hold on; tell him I will draw him a check for $1,000 if he will quit yelling.' The shout of laughter with which this was greeted silenced the baby for a minute, and Nasby said, as he turned toward us with a look of relief on his face: 'Cheap enough. I cannot bear to hear a baby cry.' This broke the ice. We had a pleasant interview, smoked and talked over the whole proposition, and carried away a pleasant impression of Nasby, but he didn't come to Chicago."

* * *

"Queerly enough," said the colonel, "the old satirist had a great love for children, particulary for girls. I lived in Toledo for a number of years, and kept up my acquaintance with Mr. Locke to the day of his death. When he came to our house here in Chicago he showed his affection for our little girl, then about 5 or 6 years old, in a way that greatly impressed her. On his first meeting with her he was evidently very much touched by the look of veneration and affection that came into her honest eyes when I spoke his name. Holding her hand, he said, with a pathetic sort of gravity, and Lord is very good to your papa and mamma in giving them such a nice girl as you are.' Then, after a minute, 'I suppose you say your prayers every night?' Receiving in answer a proud little 'yes,' he went on: 'You are on pretty good terms with the Lord, I suppose?' The child admitted that she was, and Mr. Locke said seriously, 'Will you pray the Lord, in season and out of season, to send me a little girl like you?' This was assented to wonderingly and pityingly, and Mr. Locke added: 'And you might say to him confidentially that if he does not attend to the matter pretty soon I will have to steal you or some other little girl.' That little girl is now a woman, and she says that at that time and later when she was old enough to catch the spirit of Nasby's drollery she had the after impression of the pathos behind it, the longing of the great, rough satirist for a daughter.

* * *

"The queerest thing about him was his delight in laces, silks and satins that go to make up a woman's dress. He once admitted to me that he would go barefoot for the privilege of wearing a lace collar or veil. He liked to see girls or women dressed in white or dainty soft colors, and he never saw a girl or a woman so dressed that he did not express the regret that he was not able to wear such materials himself. Calling one evening on a lady who came to meet him in a pretty summer dress, he burst out with: 'I would give a million dollars if I were a woman and could dress like that. I am in earnest,' he said, as she looked at him in wonderment. 'I hate black; I hate stiff collars. A man has nothing to be proud of in his dress except a coat-tail, and what is a coat-tail?' He never put any of this sentiment into the Nasby letters, and I often wondered in what mood he wrote them."

* * *

"I can answer that," said an old typo. "Locke was a printer as well as an editor. In the handling of letters and articles in a country newspaper he had studied the orthography and the language of letters from uneducated villagers and farmers, and when he came to write the first Nasby letter he had his model clearly fixed in his mind. There was no dependence on awkward spelling for his point. The spelling was simply in keeping with the character, and he kept it up. It was his habit to block out a Nasby letter, say a third of a column. That was put in type by one of the regular compositors. When the first proof was sent him Locke would work the first draft over and then go to the case himself and reset the whole matter, amplify and extend it until it would make a column or a column and a half. In this way he studied what he called the architecture of the letter as well as the arguments, because it became a habit with him through long years of work as a printer to do his best thinking at the case. He would often sing at the top of his voice while working at the letter, the old-fashioned Methodist tune being interrupted or shut off at times with a chuckle or ejaculation as some happy thought struck him. In this way, as all the printers about the Blade office knew, most of the Nasby letters grew into shape."

* * *

"Speaking of Locke's drollery," said the colonel, as he took possession of his own again, "he couldn't help it. He was droll with his venerable father, who, by the way, outlived his son. The old man was of the strictest sect of the straight up and down old-fashioned gentleman, and Nasby was always a standing wonder to him. After he moved to Toledo Mr. Locke put his father and mother on a country place near the city, and looked after their wants and welfare with a devotion that was very pleasing to the old people. His father would come into town nearly every day to see him, and on such occasions Mr. Locke treated the old gentleman with distinguished consideration, introducing him in a proud sort of a way to his visitors and making much of him. After a little visit the father would prepare to take his departure, and would say in a respectful, affectionate way, 'Good-by, David.' To this Mr. Locke, dropping on the instant his seriousness of manner, would respond: 'Good-by, father; take with you my parting admonition, "Be virtuous, and you will be happy."' This always seemed to amuse Nasby as much as it puzzled the father.

* * *

"It is well known that President Lincoln had a great liking for Nasby and a great admiration for the letters. Charles Sumner certainly had, although he admitted that he knew very little of the letters until President Lincoln called his attention to them. Locke never met Lincoln, but Sumner was his personal friend to the last, and in 1872, when President Grant and Senator Sumner quarreled, Locke was inclined to cast his fortune and the influence of the Blade with Sumner. He had never met Grant, and he resisted all maneuvers to have a meeting take place. He did not want to appear as a hero worshipper, and he did not want any one to say that he had been influenced by personal contact with the President. After he had decided to cut loose from Sumner and espouse the cause of Grant, he was at Long Branch, and walking with Governor Jewell met two men sauntering in an easy, lazy way along the sidewalk. They bowed to Jewell, and all stopped to talk, and before he suspected who the strangers were Governor Jewell said: 'General Grant, Mr. Locke, known to you as Petroleum V. Nasby.' Both men were taken by surprise, but Grant in his simple way showed his familiarity with the writings of Nasby, expressed his pleasure over the fact that Nasby had entered the campaign in such an effective way, told a little story of his first meeting with Lincoln, offered Locke a cigar, and strolled with him along to his cottage, and, sitting on the back porch, the two had a long talk, which neither ever forgot. From that day the satirical Nasby was Grant's devoted friend, and nothing that Sumner or others said broke up the friendship."

PETROLEUM V. NASBY.

QUEER COLOR BLINDNESS.

A Locomotive Engineer Whose Affliction Was Intermittent.

A peculiar case of color blindness was brought to the attention of the superintendent of a local railway the other day while a test of the eyes of the employes was being conducted, says the Boston Herald.

Among those examined was the engineer of an express train, who has the reputation of being one of the best men who had ever stood in a locomotive cab. To the utter surprise of the superintendent, however, when the man was undergoing the examination it was found that he was suffering from color blindness of a character unknown to those making the test.

When the engineer was called the superintendent felt that it was almost a waste of time to apply the tests in his (the engineer's) case, and after he had told off all the colors accurately he was confirmed in this belief. But to make himself doubly sure that no mistake should be made he submitted the man to a second test. Holding up a piece of bright red ribbon, he said to the engine man:

"What color do you see?"

"Green was the prompt reply.

The superintendent could hardly believe his ears, and the question was repeated.

"Green," again replied the engineer.

Then the green ribbon was held up.

"What color do you now see?" inquired the superintendent.

"Red," was the answer.

The fact that all the colors had been accurately called at the first trial puzzled the superintendent greatly, and he said to the engineer that he wished to subject him to a further examination later in the day.

At the third trial the superintendent first held up a piece of blue ribbon and asked the engineer to name its color.

"Blue," he answered without hesitation.

"And this?" elevating a red strip.

"Red."

"Now this one," holding up a green.

"Green."

The result deepened the complexity of the examining board, and it was finally decided to send the man to an expert occulist for a still further examination. It was subsequently learned that the engineer had shown the same peculiar characteristics as upon the three previous tests, which were sufficient to unfit him for service as an engineer. He was therefore taken from his engine and given a lucrative position in the roundhouse.

IT KILLED STONEWALL JACKSON.

The Bullet Which Was Direct Cause of the Confederate Leader's Death.

The bullet which it was claimed was the direct cause of Stonewall Jackson's death is now in possession of I. B. Wheeler, of Highland Falls, N. Y. Wheeler has documents which clearly prove the authenticity of his claim.

Wheeler's cousin was on Jackson's staff. Early on the morning of May 1, 1863, Jackson's division, in accordance with the decision of a council of war, moved toward Chancellorsville. Lee had yielded to Jackson's advice to flank the Union forces. The stratagem was a complete success, and Sickles' column went to pieces under the terrific onslaught of twenty-five thousand graycoats. It was while reconnoitering in the darkness that evening that Jackson's men mistaking his staff for Union cavalry, poured a shower of bullets into their midst, and, although several pierced the intrepid leader, it was the one in Mr. Wheeler's possession that made the fatal wound.

The surgeon who amputated Jackson's arm threw the bullet against the wall in a violent fit of anger, and Wheeler's cousin picked it up and carried it through the war, and Wheeler, while going through his effects yesterday, found the bullet and its history.

ABHORRED BY NATURE.

A Woman's Remark That Settled His Case.

The conversation had dragged somewhat and she decided that he didn't amount to much intellectually.

"It must be unpleasant," she observed, after a wearisome silence, "for you to be so generally unpopular."

The dude stared stonily and gasped a little.

"Unpopular?" he repeated, his pale face flushing a trifle; "Why, I'm sure I didn't know—"

The gance that she directed toward him was not unkind. It was only pitying.

"Nature abhors a vacuum, you know," she said, gently.

The silence that followed was so thick that it formed an impenetrable barrier between them for many years.—New York World.

Proving Her Case.

Mrs. Emerson (of Boston)—You shouldn't use slang, Susie. Your favorite old English authors do not countenance it.

Susie—Oh yes they do, mamma. Don't you remember what Collie Cibber says about the youth that fired the Ephesian dome?—New York Tribune.

Not Worrying Himself About It.

"Young man," said the evangelist, "do you ever give any thought to your future?"

"You bet I do," replied the young man. "And it's all right. The girl I'm going to marry has a million."—Philadelphia North American.

PERSONAL POINTS.

The successor of Du Bois-Reymond in the chair of physiology at the Berlin University will probably be either Prof. Munk of Berlin or Prof. Kuhne of Heidelberg.

The Empress of Japan writes poetry and keeps a diary, which was recently published, with some of her verses. She is greatly interested in the woman question.

Berlin art circles are interested in a young artist who promises to make his mark. Though only twenty-three years old and still a student, W. Kreis has won the $1,500 prize for the plan of a national war monument, to be erected in Leipsic. There were seventy-two competitors.

M. Osiries, of Paris, who recently bought the Castle of Malmaison, is having every room in it carefully restored. Among the best known rooms are Napoleon's study, billiard room and drawing room, and the room where the Empress Josephine had her greenhouses, has already been restored by the Count de Barri, brother of the King of Naples.

Dr. Giuseppe Sanarelli, the discoverer of the bacillus of yellow fever, is not yet thirty years of age. He took his degree in the University of Siena, in 1889, and was afterwards successful in several competitions in Italy and abroad, continuing his studies at Pavia, and also in Paris and in Germany. He devoted himself especially to the study of maladies diffused by the supply of impure water, notably typhoid and cholera.

Our Serial Story.

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"The·Clock·Struck·One"

By FERGUS HUME.

Author of "The Mystery of a Hansom Cab," "The Lone Inn," "The Expedition of Captain Flick," "The Mystery of Landy Court, etc.

CHAPTER XV.—THE PEARL BROOCH.

So the long-expected had happened at last, and the inevitable woman appeared on the scene. Dora was hardly astonished to hear of Lady Burville's connection with the crime. She had always believed that, sooner or later, the name of this woman would come into the matter. Nevertheless, it was terrible that she should have killed the wretched man with whom, in some mysterious fashion, she had been associated twenty years before. With the pearl-lettered brooch in her hand, Dora considered the position in which she was placed, the discovery she had made.

'Do you think that Lady Burville really did kill him, Allen?" she asked in a hesitating voice.

"Who can say?" answered Scott wearily. "I should be loth to accuse her on insufficient evidence. But look at the matter as it stands. Lady Burville fainted at the sight of Edermont; she asked me questions as to his whereabouts. On the night of the murder she visits him, as is proved by the finding of that brooch in the study. Immediately after passing her on the road I enter the house, to find Edermont dead. So far as we know, no one else was in the house on that night; so the inference must be drawn that this woman murdered your guardian. Yes," said Allen thoughtfully, "I think there is a strong case to be made out against Lady Burville."

"But her motive, Allen?" expostulated Dora. "She would not commit so terrible a crime without a motive."

"I cannot guess her motive, Dora. I am as ignorant of Lady Burville's connection with the dead man as—as—you are."

"But, Allen," said Dora, hesitating, "was not her name mentioned by Mr. Edermont during that conversation?"

"Yes. He asked me where she was staying, but he gave me no information about her. She has nothing to do with the bar to our marriage. At least, I do not think so."

"Then you are not certain."

"No," said Allen in a low voice; "I cannot say that I am certain."

Dora looked at him impatiently, and a sigh escaped her. Evidently he was determined to give her no clue to the unraveling of these enigmas; and what she discovered she would discover unaided. Nevertheless, she did not lose heart, but took up the burden which he had laid down.

"Why did you not tell me this before, Allen?"

"How could I?" he said vehemently. "By visiting the Red House on that night I was in a dangerous position. If my movements had been known, I might have not only lost what little practice I have, but have been in danger of arrest. Even now I may be called upon to exonerate myself, should this man Joad speak."

"Joad will not speak," said Dora quietly—"at all events, not for a week. As I said before, a great deal may be done in seven days. You must let me take away this brooch."

Allen looked at her with an air of astonishment. "Why do you wish to take away the brooch?" he asked.

"I'll answer that question later on. Lady Burville is not now at Hernwood Hall?"

"I believe not," replied Scott. "She returned to London, I think, shortly after the discovery of the murder of Edermont. To my mind, her sudden departure seems suspicious."

"On the face of it, I agree with you that it does," assented Dora. "But from what I have heard of the medical evidence, I doubt if Lady Burville killed Edermont. The murder was so brutal."

"You are right there. The assassin must have had brutal instincts and a strong physique. Now, Lady Burville is small and delicate; not the sort of woman capable of using that heavy knobkerrie, or striking so terrible a blow. But then, Dora," added Allen with a puzzled air, "if Lady Burville is innocent, who is guilty? There can't have been anyone else in the house on that night."

"Why not? Mr. Edermont wrote letters to other people besides yourself."

"Do you know the names of the persons to whom he wrote?"

"No," replied Dora promptly; "he was careful to post the letters himself."

"But, Dora," expostulated Allen, "why should Edermont convene a meeting of so many people at such a late hour?"

"I cannot guess. The explanation may be contained in the stolen manuscript. All my guardian's actions were wrapped up in mystery, and there may be more people connected with this matter than we dream of. But this is not the point. Can I take away this brooch?"

"As you please," said Allen indifferently; "except to exonerate myself in your eyes, I would not have betrayed Lady Burville, murderess as I believe her to be."

"You would win fifty thousand pounds by doing so."

"Blood money!" said Scott angrily. "No, Dora; I do not wish to build up my fortunes in that way, on the ruins of others. I do not say, should Joad denounce me, that I would keep silent. One must save one's own neck if possible; but otherwise I say nothing, I do nothing. All things thought about, or done, cannot gain me your hand. The rest may go."

"Well, my dear Allen," said Dora, pocketing the brooch, "you refuse to tell me this secret, and I have promised not to press you. But if I can't marry you, at least I can save you."

"By becoming Joad's wife?"

"No; by seeing Lady Burville."

He looked at her in surprise. "My dear Dora," he said after a pause, "you have no reasonable excuse for seeking an interview with Lady Burville."

"You have just given me an excellent excuse, Allen—the pearl brooch."

"But Lady Burville will know that I have betrayed her."

"No doubt. But I will show her that you have done so to save your own life."

Allen thought. "What do you intend to do?" he asked abruptly.

"Force Lary Burville to confess her share in these mysteries."

"She will not do that," said Scott, shaking his head. "On the surface she is a frivolous little creature, but from what I saw of her I am inclined to believe that such frivolity conceals a strong will."

"No doubt, Allen. She must be a clever and merciless woman to plan and carry out so dexterous a crime. I do not see why you should save her life at the expense of your own. Leave me to deal with her, and I'll force her to speak."

"Would you have her arrested for the crime?"

"If Joad denounces you, I shall denounce her," said Dora quietly; "but there may be no necessity for such an extreme course. Wait until I see her."

"But you do not know where to find her."

"Oh, I can get her address from her late host, Sir Harry Hernwood."

And with this decision Dora took her leave. Here one may pause to reflect on the difference between these characters; a difference accentuated the more by the circumstances in which they found themselves entangled. It cannot be denied that Dora bore herself the better of the two. Shrewd, cool and determined, she saw her way to a definite end, and strove steadily towards its attainment. Allen, on the other hand, was dilatory and wavering. Knowing of a bar to his marriage, he should have informed the girl what this bar was, and have left her to judge of its insuperability. But this is exactly what he shrank from doing. He preferred to wait the turn of events; to refrain from action until it was forced upon him. No; Allen Scott was not an heroic character. Dora knew this, despite her preference for him above all other men. Indeed, as is the way with good women, she loved him all the better for such weakness. However, as matters now were arranged, Allen sulked like a modern Achilles in his tent, and Dora went forth to take action.

With characteristic decision, she had determined upon her future course. To get the address of Lady Burville from Sir Harry, to call on Lady Burville in town, and to learn all she could of the events of the night from Lady Burville before leaving her house; this was the programme sketched out and adhered to by Dora Carew. As a first step towards the accomplishment of her purpose, she turned off the main road and took that which led to Hernwood Hall. She reached it before half-past six—an awkward hour for a call—and on inquiring for Sir Harry she was shown into the drawing-room. Here she was saluted by the man she came to see, and to whom she apologized for the lateness of her visit.

"You must excuse me, Sir Harry," said Dora calmly. "I am Miss Carew, of the Red House, and I leave for London tomorrow by an early train. Hence my call on you at so late an hour. If you would be so kind as to give me the address of Lady Burville, I should esteem it a favour."

This abrupt speech was hardly a graceful one, under the circumstances; but Dora was so taken up with the intrigue in which she found herself involved that she paid no attention to necessary social observances. Sir Harry, a dapper little man, mincing and polite, was not at all indisposed to grant this request, especially to so handsome a woman. "Charmed to oblige you, Miss Carew," said he in a gallant fashion; "but—you will pardon me—may I ask why you wish for this address?"

"Certainly," replied Dora, prepared for the question; "I have picked up a pearl brooch on the road"—she was afraid to state the actual finding-place—"which I have reason to believe belongs to Lady Burville. I wish to return it to her in person."

"May I see the brooch, Miss Carew?"

"Certainly." She handed it to him in silence. Sir Harry examined it, noted the initials, and returned it with a polite bow and the required information.

"The address of Lady Burville," said he amiably, "is No. 22 Jersey Place, Mayfair. I am sure she will be greatly obliged to you for returning her brooch, which I recognize as one she usually wore. No doubt she dropped it on the road when out on her bicycle. But if it would save you trouble, Miss Carew, I should be happy to forward it myself."

"There is no necessity, thank you," replied Dora, rising to take her leave. "I am going up to town to-morrow in any event, so I can easily return it myself. Good evening, Sir Harry. I thank you for your good nature in seeing me at this hour and your kindness in giving me the address."

"Pray do not mention it, my dear Miss Carew. I am delighted to be of service to you."

During this conversation Sir Harry had discreetly refrained from remarking on the tragic end of Julian Edermont. He knew that Miss Carew was the ward of the dead man; but, afraid of a scene, and detesting trouble, he judged it wiser to ignore the fact. In the same way, he gave the address of Lady Burville at once, as he was anxious to rid himself of his visitor. Sir Harry Hernwood, in a word, was a fool; and for that reason Dora was successful in her mission. A wiser man would have withheld the address of his late guest until better assured of the errand of the inquirer. Dora thought of all these things as she rode homewards, and congratulated herself that Sir Harry had proved so foolish and weak. She had the address of Lady Burville, and could obtain the interview she sought. Now it remained to force the woman into confession of the crime by means of the pearl brooch. It would be difficult for Lady Burville to explain its presence in the study without inculpating herself in the murder.

"Mrs. Tice," said Dora that night when Joad had departed, "I am going to town to-morrow."

"Very good, Miss Carew," said the housekeeper placidly. "Will you return in the evening?"

"Probably. If I do not, I shall send you a wire. But I want you to conceal from Mr. Joad that I have gone to London."

"I shall not tell him, Miss Carew, if you do not wish him to know. But why, if I may be so bold?"

"Oh," said Dora, with a peculiar look, "I'll tell you that when I return."

"You will tell me on your return?" repeated Mrs. Tice, looking shrewdly at her companion. "I hope nothing is wrong, miss?"

"Everything is wrong. I am endeavoring to put everything right."

"That will be difficult, my dear young lady, in your present state of ignorance. You do not know all."

Dora laughed. "I know more than you give me credit for, Mrs. Tice. Allen has told me something."

The ruddy face of the housekeeper blanched suddenly. "Not—not—the secret?" she stammered.

"Not the secret you know of," replied Dora. "I am still ignorant of the bar to our marriage."

"Then what has Mr. Allen told you?" asked Mrs. Tice, reassured on this point.

"Ah, that's my secret. If you will not confide in me, I do not see why I should confide in you."

"Mr. Allen could have said nothing very dreadful," was Mrs. Tice's reply; "we had a talk together on the evening he returned from London, and he told me everything then."

"No doubt," said Dora, who was pleased to stimulate the housekeeper's curiosity, "but he did not tell you some things, for the simple reason that 'some things' had not happened. Remember, Mrs. Tice, the night of Allen's return was the night of the murder."

"The murder!" repeated Mrs. Tice in a scared tone.

"Yes. Allen did not tell you what he knew about that," said Dora, and left the room.

CHAPTER XVI.—DORA IS STARTLED.

The next day Dora excused her absence to Joad on the plea of a visit to a friend living the other side of Canterbury, and stated furthermore that she would not return until late that evening. It was absolutely necessary to make such statement, as she knew not what conclusion would be drawn by the old man did he learn that her true destination was London. She suspected him of knowing more of Lady Burville than he chose to confess; and with such knowledge he might guess her intention. If so, it might be that he would warn Lady Burville, did he know her address, which was by no means unlikely; therefore Dora was resolved to keep him in ignorance of her plan. To blind Joad was no easy task, as he was artful, dangerous, and—she more than suspected—merciless.

To avert all suspicion, she rode to Selling on her bicycle, and there caught the early train to London. Resolved on economy, she purchased a third-class ticket, and had just time to stumble into a carriage before the train started. Then she became aware that she had but one companion in the compartment—a man. He turned his head as the train began to move, and she saw with astonishment and some annoyance that it was Mr. Pride.

"Never mind," she thought, returning his greeting with a stiff nod; "he can tell Joad on his return if he pleases. It will then be too late for the old man to do anything, as I shall have seen Lady Burville."

Like Joad, this man was another protege of Edermont's, who had procured for him a small post in a private school at Chillum. Pride was not unlike his late patron, being short and insignificant looking, with a white beard, hardly so luxuriant as that of Edermont, and silvery-white hair. In the distance the resemblance was striking, but a closer inspection showed the difference between the two men, as Pride was plump and rosy, with mild eyes and a good-natured smile. He rubbed one fat hand over the other, and saluted Miss Carew in his usual cheery fashion.

"I am glad to see you looking so well, Miss Carew," he said brightly. "You go to London?"

"Only for the day, Mr. Pride," replied Dora coldly.

"Ah; no doubt you wish to get away from those pests who swarm round the Red House in the hope of gaining a fortune."

"Those amateur detectives?" said Dora quietly; "do you think they will discover the truth?"

"Who knows?" was Pride's reply; "they will do their best to do so. Fifty thousand pounds is worth the earning."

Dora considered for a moment, then turned on him suddenly. "You were at Canterbury on the night the murder was committed?"

"Till close on 11," returned Pride easily; "then I walked back to Chillum."

"And you went into Mr. Joad's house?"

"I did. I was with him at 1 o'clock."

"Did you meet any one on a bicycle as you walked to Chillum from Canterbury?"

"Why," replied the schoolmaster after a moment's pause, "I met two people, and each rode a bicycle. One, a man, was riding towards Chillum; the other, a woman, was making for Canterbury."

"Did you know who they were?"

"I, my dear Miss Carew," said Pride in great surprise—"why, no! I took no particular notice of them, in the first place; and in the second, they flitted along so swiftly and noiselessly that I was hardly aware of their passing."

"I suppose you have no clue to the assassin?" said Dora abruptly.

"No. If I had, I should not scruple to earn the fortune."

"Can you conjecture the motive for the crime, Mr. Pride?"

"I—am—afraid—not," said Pride slowly. "I knew Mr. Edermont well; but there was nothing in his past life likely to endanger his safety."

"He thought otherwise. Mr. Edermont was always haunted by the dread of a violent death."

"I knew that, Miss Carew. Monomania, my dear lady—monomania."

"It could not be monomania if it came true," said Dora impetuously.

"Why not?" replied Pride in an argumentative tone. "Monomania is the dwelling on one particular idea until it fills the thoughts and life of the thinker. Mr. Edermont may have had reason to suppose that his life was in danger; but the original cause may have passed away. Nevertheless, the habit may have continued; and so," added Pride with a shrug, "we may reasonably ascribe our friend's death to a creature of his imagination."

"Your argument is weak," replied Dora spiritedly. "Mr. Edermont believed that he would die a violent death, and what he believed came to pass. That does away with all your sophistries."

"But, Miss Carew, the cause of his fear was done away with before your guardian died."

"How do you know that?"

"Joad told me. We were discussing the possibility of the existence of this unknown enemy whom Mr. Edermont feared; and Joad mentioned that Mr. Pallant had set that fear at rest."

"Do you mean to say that Mr. Pallant told him his enemy was dead?"

"Joad thought that such was the case."

"Then you must see," cried Dora triumphantly, "that such a supposition does away with your theory of monomania. Evidently Mr. Edermont's fear was founded on no fancy, but on fact."

"Well, I will agree with you for the sake of the argument," cried Pride hastily; "but granted that all you say is true, it brings us no nearer the solution of the mystery. Admitting that the enemy who Mr. Edermont feared really existed; if such enemy did, as we suppose Mr. Pallant told our poor friend, who killed him, and verified his life-long prediction that he would come to a violent end?"

"I understand your meaning," was Dora's reply, "but I do not think all the talking in the world will aid us to discover the actual assassin. What is your belief, Mr. Pride?"

"I can not say that I have any particular belief, Miss Carew. These criminal problems are too intricate for me."

"Don't you wish to earn the reward?"

"I should not mind doing so," replied Pride with a good-natured laugh. "No man in his senses would lose the chance of gaining fifty thousand pounds. All the same, I am not clever enough to win it. I do not see where to begin."

"Do you think that the manuscript in the bureau was the motive for the crime?"

"No. Why should any one have killed Mr. Edermont to gain a worthless manuscript?"

"It might have been worthless to the assassin," objected Dora; "it contained the story of Mr. Edermont's past life."

"But what has his past life to do with his violent death?"

"Everything. You forget that Mr. Edermont believed himself to be a threatened man."

"And so we get back to the starting point of our argument!" laughed Pride.

Dora laughed also; and finding that they were arguing in a circle, changed that particular line of conversation.

"You knew Mr. Edermont well?" she asked after a pause.

"Yes—for quite fifteen years. He was very good to me, and helped me to the post I now hold."

"Did you know Mr. Edermont at Christchurch?"

"Christchurch?" repeated Pride slowly. "No; I did not know him then. Did he live there?"

"I believe so," said Dora curtly, and closed the conversation.

Evidently there was nothing to be learnt from Pride. His knowledge of Edermont only extended back fifteen years; and Dora believed that the motive of the crime was to be found as far back as twenty. Moreover, if he knew anything conclusive, he would be certain to utilize it for his own benefit, and thus gain the reward. Under these circumstances Dora hardly regarded Pride in the light of an important factor in the course she was pursuing, and took no further notice of him from that point of view. They chatted on indifferent subjects until the train arrived at Victoria Station. Here Pride took his leave, and Dora went forward on her mission.

Jersey Place was easily found by asking a convenient policeman. Dora was impressed with the magnificence of the houses and by the aristocratic seclusion of the square. If possible, No. 22 was even more imposing than the surrounding mansions, and as Dora rang the bell she could not help thinking that she was undertaking a difficult task. Here was a rich and titled lady, evidently a power in society, fenced round, as it were, by wealth and position. Yet she proposed to accuse this powerful personage of a crime; she intended to save her lover at the cost of casting down this formidable goddess from her pedestal. It was a dangerous, almost a hopeless, task, but Dora did not shrink from its fulfilment. Too much depended upon the issue of the coming interview for her to retreat at the eleventh hour.

She was introduced by the footman into a small ante-room on the left of the entrance-hall, and there she remained while he took her card up to Lady Burville. In a few moments he returned with the information that his mistress would see her. Dora followed the man up-stairs, and was shewn into the drawing-room. It was empty at the moment, and she had ample leisure to survey the splendid room and its still more splendid furniture. The apartment was sumptuous in the extreme. Everything that art and luxury could supply was gathered together between these four walls. The east and the west had contributed to adorn this house. It was more like a palace than the residence of a private person, and gave Dora large ideas of the wealth of Sir John Burville.

His portrait—as she guessed—hung in a conspicuous part of the room. A strong, burly man he appeared to be, with a shrewd, coarse face. Parvenu was writ large on his whole personality; and Dora could guess from his lowering looks that he possessed a violent temper. The portrait was not prepossessing, and she left it to look at the picture of a frail and delicate woman. This, without doubt, was Lady Burville, and her suspicion was confirmed in a few minutes, for as she was contemplating the portrait the door opened to admit the original.

Lady Burville was small, slender, and usually as daintily tinted as a statuette of Dresden china. But at the present moment her face was pale and her eyes, filled with alarm, looked apprehensively at Dora from under the loose fringe of her golden hair. Arrayed in a tea gown of some white filmy material, she looked like a ghost as she glided towards the girl. Dora put these terrified looks down to a secret knowledge of her guilt, and believed in her own mind that Lady Burville had really slain Mr. Edermont. But again, she thought, it is impossible that so frail a creature could have struck so deadly a blow. Yet why was she so terrified?

"Miss Carew, I believe?" said Lady Burville, trying to smile with white lips. "Will you not be seated?"

"No, thank you, Lady Burville," replied Dora stiffly. "I am obliged to you for granting me this interview."

"I am only too pleased. You are a ward of Mr. Edermont's, I believe?"

"I was his ward, Lady Burville."

"Yes, yes; how stupid of me! I forgot about that terrible murder."

Dora deliberately produced the pearl brooch from her pocket, and held it out towards the other. "Perhaps this will refresh your memory," she said slowly.

"My brooch!" said Lady Burville in surprise. "How did you come by it? How did you find it?"

"I did not find it, but Dr. Scott did."

"Really! Where?"

"On the floor of the room in which Mr. Edermont was killed."

Lady Burville's face turned even whiter than it was before. "I—I do not understand," she stammered, shrinking back.

"I can explain," continued Dora pitilessly. "You visited the House on the night of the second of August; you dropped this brooch there, and you there killed my guardian."

"No, no! I—I did not! Who dares to say such a thing?"

"I dare," said Dora calmly. "I say it again. You killed Mr. Edermont."

"What—what proof have you?" gasped Lady Burville, seizing a chair to keep herself from falling.

"The proof of this brooch; the evidence of Dr. Scott, who met you returning from the Red House. You need not deny it, Lady Burville. I believe you to be guilty, and I shall denounce you."

"No, no! You cannot—you dare not!"

"Why?"

Lady Burville fell at her feet in a passion of tears. "I am your mother," she cried, "your unhappy mother!"

[To be continued.]

Sealed.

She trembled.

"My past," she faltered, "is a sealed book."

He gladly offered her $75 per week. From the point of view of art the next thing to a terrible past was a past that was a sealed book.—Detroit Journal.

Unreasonable.

Boarder—This egg is not quite fresh, madam.

Landlady—Oh, of course not. You people will be demanding next spring's chicken before another month.—Detroit Free Press.

The Real.

"As I understand it, realistic art aims to call a spade a spade."

"Isn't the design rather to call pretty much everything a spade?"

To be sure, decay was but the harbinger of new life; chaos had often to precede cosmos; but that, it is submitted in all candor, is another story.—Detroit Journal.

A Thoughtful Answer.

"What's the first step toward the digestion of the food?" asked the teacher. Up went the hand of a black-haired little fellow, who exclaimed with eagerness: "Bite it off! Bite it off!"—American Kitchen Magazine.

Something Similar.

"Last night I dreamed I was dead," said the drummer from Indianapolis.

"And the heat woke you up?" the drummer hastened to ask.

"Pretty much the same thing as what you imply. The brakeman was calling out 'Chicago!'"—Indianapolis Journal.

Proud of It.

Mr. Goodman—My little man, when I was your age I didn't smoke in the way you do.

Slum Child—I should think not! Why, there ain't a kid in the alley that kin inhale like me."—Pearson's Weekly.

Question Bureau.

RULES.—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons, or firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers are free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest; and will answer no mathematical problems, questions of law, etc. 6.—No answers by mail.

Votes for Electors.

"Will the living encyclopedia please tell me how it took 12,000 more votes to elect a McKinley elector than to elect a Bryan elector, as a New York paper states?"—J. M., Athens, Ill.

Well, for instance, the Bryan electors in Ohio received 477,494 votes apiece. The Republican electors had to receive more votes than that. In Nevada the McKinley electors received 1,938 votes apiece. Hence each McKinley elector in Ohio had to receive about 478,000 votes to be elected, which each Bryan elector in Nevada had only to receive a little less than 2,000 votes to be elected. Do you see that? The same comparisons can be made between the vote of any state that cast its electoral vote for McKinley, with that of any state which cast its electoral vote for Bryan, with a similar result. It took far more votes to elect the McKinley electors than to elect the Bryan electors.

Vanishing Inks.

"Will you please publish in the Question Bureau of your valuable paper, a few good receipts for making vanishing inks? Ink that is black, or some good color when first written with, but after a few days, or weeks fades out and entirely disappears, or vanishes."—B. F. S., Central Station, W. Va.

There is no ink which will fade out and entirely disappear. Such a thing is an impossibility, though story-writers are fond of making their plots hinge on such impossible inks.

A weak solution of chloride of cobalt in water, which any druggist can make for you, is invisible after writing, but appears a beautiful green when the paper is heated, and disappears again when the paper cools.

Onion juice is invisible, but becomes yellow on exposure to heat. The color remains thereafter.

Superfluous Hair.

"Please give a recipe for removing hair from the hands and neck."—E. C., Wis.

Purchase of a druggist one ounce of barium sulphide. Take a small portion, and mix it, while dry, with the same amount of powdered starch. Then add enough warm water to make a thick paste. Stir it smooth with a bit of clean stick. Then apply to the parts from which the hair is to be removed. Let it remain for 5 to 10 minutes, or sooner, if it smarts much; then wash clean in warm water, and apply olive oil, or sweet oil. This destroys the hair to the surface, but it will grow again. There is nothing which can be applied which will kill the roots of the hair.

To Get a Patent.

"When a person wants a patent on anything, where does he apply, how much does it cost, and must he send a sample or a description?"—Reader, Hartford City, Ind., and J. M., Greencastle, Ky.

Application for a patent must be made in writing to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C. The applicant must file in the patent office a written description of his invention, which must explain the principle involved, the best mode in which he contemplates applying that principle, so as to distinguish it from other inventions, and particularly point out and distinctly explain the part, improvement or combination which he claims as his invention or discovery. The specification and claim must be signed by the inventor and attested by two witnesses.

When the invention admits of drawings, the applicant must furnish them of the required size, signed by the inventor, and attested by two witnesses. They will be kept on file in the Patent office. Where the commissioner requires it, the applicant must furnish a model of convenient size to exhibit advantageously the several parts of his invention.

The applicant must make oath that he believes himself to be the original and first inventor or discoverer of the improvement sought to be patented; that he does not know or believe the same was ever before known or used, and must state of what country he is a citizen. On filing the application, etc., and paying the fees required by law, if the commissioner is convinced the invention is proper for patenting, a patent will be issued.

A patent runs for 17 years. The fees, to be paid in advance, are, on filing application, $15; on issuing the patent, $20. It is always better, unless the inventor is experienced in patent procedure, to put the case in the hands of a patent attorney.

German "Free Cities."

"Will you please tell all you can, in your department, of the three 'Free Cities' of the German empire?"—G. E. A., Wolf Dale, Iowa.

The free cities of Germany are themselves sovereign states, and members of the German Empire. They are the remnants of the once numerous "imperial" cities, or cities not subject to any superior lord, but immediately under the imperial government.

Hamburg embraces not only the city of that name, but a small area of territory adjacent, covering 158 square miles. It has one vote in the federal council (Bundesrath), and three deputies in the Reichstag.

Bremen embraces 99 square miles. It has one vote in the federal council, and one in the Reichstag.

Lubec embraces 109 square miles; its local government is republican, administered by a senate of 14 life members, and by 120 delegates elected for six years.

Inauguration Day.

"Will you kindly inform me the day of the week that each of the Presidents was inaugurated upon, from Washington down?"—E. P. H., Bangor, Mich.

Washington was inaugurated the first time on Thursday, April 30, 1789; the second time, Monday, March 4, 1793.

John Adams, Saturday, March 4, 1797.

Thomas Jefferson, Wednesday, March 4, 1801, and Monday, March 4, 1805.

James Madison, Saturday, March 4, 1809, and Thursday, March 4, 1813.

James Monroe, Tuesday, March 4, 1817, and Monday, March 5, 1821.

John Quincy Adams, Friday, March 4, 1825.

Andrew Jackson, Wednesday, March 4, 1829, and Monday, March 4, 1833.

Martin Van Buren, Saturday, March 4, 1837.

William Henry Harrison, Thursday, March 4, 1841.

John Tyler, Tuesday, April 6, 1841.

James K. Polk, Tuesday, March 4, 1845.

Zachary Taylor, Monday, March 5, 1849.

Millard Fillmore, Tuesday, July 9, 1850.

Franklin Pierce, Friday, March 4, 1853.

James Buchanan, Wednesday, March 4, 1857.

Abraham Lincoln, Monday, March 4, 1861, and Saturday, March 4, 1865.

Andrew Johnson, Saturday, April 15, 1865.

U. S. Grant, Thursday, March 4, 1869, and Tuesday, March 4, 1873.

R. B. Hayes, Monday, March 5, 1877.

James A. Garfield, Friday, March 4, 1881.

Chester A. Arthur, Tuesday, September 20, 1881.

Grover Cleveland, Wednesday, March 4, 1885.

Benjamin Harrison, Monday, March 4, 1889.

Grover Cleveland, Friday, March 4, 1893.

William McKinley, Thursday, March 4, 1897.

Tempering Tools.

"Please give me the process for tempering axes, grubbers, chisels, etc.; some inexpensive mode that any ordinary person can successfully manufacture."—G. M. L., Endicott, N. C.

Steel tools are first hardened by heating them to a cherry red, and then plunging into cold water. Then the temper is drawn by moderately heating the steel again. Axes, etc., should be heated the second time till they are of a brown-yellow color, which is about 500 degrees. Then plunge into cold water. Only experience will tell you, by the eye, what is the proper color to heat it.

The Cabinet.

"How many members are there in the President's Cabinet?"—"Scott," Eagle Foundry, Pa.

There are eight members in the President's Cabinet. Here are the names of the positions: Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of War, Attorney General, Postmaster General, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture.

The Two Fosters.

J. B. R., Redlands, Cal.: Charles Foster was born near Tiffin, Ohio, in 1828. After receiving his education at Norwalk academy, he entered his father's store at what is now Fostoria, Ohio, and became a successful merchant. In 1870 he made the race for Congress in what was deemed a hopelessly Democratic district, and was elected. He was three times re-elected, though his district gave a Democratic majority each time on the state ticket—a striking testimony to his popularity. He was elected governor of Ohio in 1871, and re-elected in 1881. He succeeded William Windom as Harrison's secretary of the treasury. He still lives at Fostoria.

John Watson Foster was born in Pike county, Indiana, in 1836, graduated at Indiana state university in 1855, and entered the practice of the law at Evansville, Ind. He entered the Union army in 1861 as major of the Twenty-fifth Indiana. Later he was colonel of the Sixty-fifth Indiana mounted infantry, and later of the One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Indiana. He commanded the advance brigade of cavalry with Burnside in 1863, and was the first to occupy Knoxville. After the war he became editor of the Evansville Journal, and in 1869 was made postmaster of that city. He was sent as minister to Russia by Grant in 1873, and reappointed by Hayes in 1880. He was transferred to Russia, resigning in 1881 to attend to his private business. He then began practicing law in Washington city. Arthur sent him as minister to Spain in 1883, but he resigned in 1885. He acted as mediator between China and Japan, and was secretary of State under Harrison during the latter part of the latter's presidency.

Should McKinley Die.

"If President-elect McKinley should die before his inauguration, who would be sworn in as President?"—W. G. E., Bloomdale, O.

Vice President-elect Hobart would be sworn in as President. Should both McKinley and Hobart die, then the law would be operative which declares that the Secretary of State shall be next eligible to the Presidency in case of the death or disability of the President and Vice President, and if the secretary of state, by reason of foreign birth, was not eligible, then the secretary of the treasury, next secretary of war, then attorney general, then postmaster general, and so on through the rest of the cabinet. In case of the improbable contingency of the death of both the President and Vice President-elect, the unique condition would obtain of a continuance for a time of an administration the political color of which would be different from that which the country had selected. In other words, if President-elect McKinley and Vice President-elect Hobart were not present to qualify on the 4th of March next, Secretary of State Olney would be called upon to qualify and act as President until a new President could be elected, for the men whom President-elect McKinley has chosen to be members of his cabinet cannot be cabinet officers until after he is duly inaugurated.

S. L., Malvern, O.: The above answers your question.

G. M., jr., Albion, Ill.: If McKinley had died between the election in November and the meeting of the electors in December, the electors would have chosen a President. Very probably they would have chosen Mr. Hobart, though they could have elected any one they chose.

The "Webfoot" State.

J. B., Adams, Ore., writes: "I see that The Blade estops Oregon from claiming a state nickname. I am surely not mistaken in claiming that the word 'Webfoot' is as frequently used colloquially by the Oregon people, and is as frequently seen in the public prints of the state as is the word 'Buckeye' by the press and people of Ohio.

"The warm Japan current, the counterpart of the Gulf Stream of the Atlantic, washes the Oregon shore. This gives to Oregon a moist, humid climate. There is a common saying here that it rains thirteen months in the year in the Willamette valley. Pursuing the exaggeration a little further, it is said that the old pioneers were webbed between the toes like an amphibian.

"The appellation becomes easy and natural. No state in the Union has a better claim to her nickname than has Oregon. Certainly none is more permanently fixed in the idiom of its people."

That is all right, if the people of Oregon like that nickname for their state. The Blade does not believe in nicknames at all, but if they are used they should be of a dignified character. "Webfoot" comes next to "Pukes," a term applied by ignorant Missourians, we believe, to their state.

Church Taxation.

J. B. R., Redlands, Cal., has our thanks for the following:

"In the Question Bureau of Weekly Blade of January 28 you say, 'All states except churches and school houses from taxation.' You are mistaken as regards California. In this state all church property is taxed, identically with other real and personal property. So also with private schools. California is unique in another respect. She has no Sunday law. Sunday is a holiday, nothing more."

The Mad stone.

"Is there any curative virtue or healing properties in what is known as the 'Madstone,' recommended to be a never-failing remedy or as a preventative for hydrophobia?"—W. R. R., Slemp, Va.

Not the slightest. Hydrophobia is a germ disease, and the most eminent medical men are now experimenting with a serum for its cure.

Robert Raikes.

M. T., Cedar, Okla.: Robert Raikes was born in Gloucester, England, in 1735, died April 5, 1811. He was publisher and editor of the Gloucester Journal, and in 1781 hired rooms for Sunday schools, employed poor women at a shilling a day to teach, and induced the poor children whom he found in the streets to attend. In a very few years Sunday schools were established in all the larger towns of England.

Railway Mail Clerks.

J. R. H., Jones Cove, Tenn.: The railway postal service is under the civil service law. The only way to get a position is to pass an examination, stand among the highest. Write to the secretary, whose address is given in the answers elsewhere headed "Civil Service Examinations." In your letter to him ask if the loss of an eye will be a bar.

John Boyle O'Rielly.

H. C., Hosmer, S. D.: John Boyle O'Reilly was born at Dowth Castle, County Meath, Ireland, June 28, 1844. He became a reporter on various English journals. He joined the Fenians, and in 1863 returned to Ireland and enlisted in the 10th Hussars, with the object of spreading disaffection among the Irish soldiers. This was discovered in 1866, O'Reilly was tried for high treason and sentenced to be shot. His punishment was commuted, and he was confined in prison. In 1867 he was sent to Australia, whence he escaped in an open boat, was picked up by an American vessel, and landed at Philadelphia in 1869. He lectured and wrote, was in the Fenian raid on Canada in 1870, and then became editor of the Boston Pilot, which place he filled till his death. He may have lectured in Wisconsin, but he never lived there.

Altgeld's Falsehood.

J. S. W., Wolf Creek, Ore., sends us the following clipping of a statement made by ex-Governor Altgeld at Chicago on January 23:

"In Ohio there were nearly 200,000 more votes counted in 1896 than there were in 1892, which would indicate an increase of population in that state during four years of very nearly 1,000,000 of people, whereas, in reality, there has not been an increase of a third of a million in that time. In other words, it is clear that in Ohio over 94,000 fraudulent votes were counted and as the returns show that Mr. McKinley had only a majority of 49,000 in that state, it is certain Mr. Bryan carried Ohio by over 40,000."

The allegation of fraud is simply a lie. Here in Ohio not one Democratic paper or leader has dared to stand by Altgeld's statement. There is no way to commit such a fraud. Ohio has the Australian ballot; the judges of election are of both parties, and to falsify the returns is simply impossible. The campaign was so exciting that every voter came out, that is all.

United States Debt.

E. G. H., Florence, Colo.: The total debt of the United States is composed of bonds, greenbacks, and treasury notes of 1890. The total amount of bonds outstanding is $847,316,750. The total amount of greenbacks outstanding is $346,681,016. The total amount of treasury notes of 1890 is $155,931,002.

There is in circulation at present, according to the report of the director of the mint, just issued, $599,597,944 in gold coin in the United States. Hence you will see that there is gold in plenty to pay the bonds as well as the interest on them. You must remember that these bonds are not payable all at once, and that gold coin does not go out of circulation when it pays one debt, but goes on, paying debt after debt, year after year.

On August 31, 1865, our bonded debt stood at the highest point. It was then $2,381,530,294. It is now but $847,316,750. In the intervening period we have paid $1,540,213,544 of those bonds, and all the interest; and that, too, on the gold standard. So you see your Populist friend is simply densely ignorant. You must remember that the "gold standard" does not mean that all debts are necessarily to be paid in gold coin. It simply means that all our dollars, paper or silver, are to be kept equal to a gold dollar in exchangeable value; that a promise to pay "one dollar" means to pay the value of a gold dollar. As a matter of fact, the interest on our bonds, and the bonds themselves, when due, are not paid in gold. They are paid by checks on the subtreasury of the United States at New York, and the holder takes greenbacks always, because they are much more convenient and less bulky than gold; and he knows that, should he want gold coin for any purpose, he can get it at the sub-treasury by presenting greenbacks for redemption.

Civil Service Examination.

S. S. H., Lancaster, Tex.: Any one who wishes to obtain any position in the classified civil service should write to Hon. John T. Doyle, secretary of the United States civil service commission, Washington, D. C., stating for what position he desires to be examined. He will receive a circular of information, with the date and place of the next examination.

Ratio of Representation.

"A. D.," Neb.: The ratio of representation in Congress from 1883 to 1893 (the period during which that apportionment law was in operation) was one Representative to every 151,912 people. The population of the United States by the census of 1880 was 50,155,783. The territories are not represented in Congress; hence, multiplying the number of Representatives by the ratio gives a number less than the census number, which includes the territorial population.

Mark Twain.

J. M. D., Bride, Tenn.: "Mark Twain" is the pen name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens. He was born in the town of Florida, Monroe county, Missouri, in 1835. He was educated in the common schools of Hannibal, and then entered the "people's college"—a printing office—at 13 years old, working at his trade in St. Louis, Cincinnati, Philadelphia and New York. In 1851 he became a pilot on Mississippi river steamboats. In 1861 he went to Nevada as private secretary to his brother, who had been appointed territorial secretary. In 1862 he became city editor of the Virginia City Enterprise. In 1865 he went to San Francisco and resumed newspaper work. His writings began to make him famous, and he came east, entering the lecture field. Since then, lecturing and authorship have been his occupations.

Our Paper Money.

F. W. C., Maryville, Tenn.: The issues of United States paper money are as follows:

Greenbacks, or United States notes, the first act for their issue being passed February 25, 1862.

Gold certificates, which represent gold coin deposited in the treasury, issued under act of March 3, 1863.

Silver certificates, which represent coined silver dollars deposited in the treasury, issued under act of February 28, 1878.

Treasury notes of 1890, issued to pay for the silver bullion purchased under the Sherman law, act of July 14, 1890.

U. S. Senators.

"A. J.," Pa.: The United States Senators from New York after March 4 will be:

	Term Expires
Edward Murphy, D.	1899
Thomas C. Platt, R.	1903
From New Jersey:	
James Smith, jr., D.	1899
Wm. J. Sewell, R.	1901
From Massachusetts:	
Henry Cabot Lodge, R.	1809
Geo. F. Hoar, R.	1901

The English Sparrows.

D. A. F., Windsor, Pa.: About 1862, the "measuring worm" was very destructive to the shade trees in Brooklyn and the New York parks, and a number of English sparrows were imported to destroy the worms and their larvae. This they did; but they increased enormously in numbers, and have now spread over a great portion of the United States.

Harness Polish.

"O. V.," Marden, Ill.: To make harness polish take 2 ounces mutton suet, 6 ounces beeswax, 6 ounces granulated sugar, 2 ounces soft soap, and 1 ounce lampblack. Dissolve the soap in ¼ pint of water, add the other ingredients, melt and mix together; then add 1 gill of turpentine. Lay it on the harness with a sponge and polish with a brush.

"Crazy as a Loon."

Spruce, Wichita, Kas.: The expression "crazy as a loon" refers to the bird—the loon, or great northern diver. When the bird is alarmed it dives, going under water a great distance; then, when it comes up it gives utterance to a wild cry, which resembles a wild, maniacal laugh. Hence the expression. Send your name when you want replies. That rule must be strictly enforced.

Miscellaneous.

W. D. W., East Toledo, O.: There is no law in Ohio to prevent your doing either.

C. H. Y., Ohiowa, Neb.: We don't know whether the story is printed in book form or not.

C. A. L.: No; President Cleveland's children are all healthy, hearty, sensible little girls.

"R. J. L.," Toledo, O.: We can not undertake to answer legal questions. Consult a lawyer.

F. L., Verta, Neb.: The premium on old coins depends entirely upon their scarcity. Some bear a high premium, and many none at all.

H. B. S., Otisco Valley, N. Y.: Pack your water pipe in the wooden box, with very dry sawdust.

J. K., Stoutsville, O., asks for the address of the Secretary of the Peace Society. Who will send it to us?

H. H., Little Valley, N. Y.: We have not a copy of the mining laws of any state, and hence can not answer.

J. C., Alton: A currier is a tanner, and curriers' oil is the oil tanners use to make leather soft and pliable.

A. H. D., Hoquiam, Wash.: We never heard of the painting. Address Cincinnati Art Museum, Eden Park, Cincinnati, O.

G. J. R., Haven, Kas.: Questions about raising trees belong to the Farmstead. Watch that department for your answer.

F. E. K., Cynthiana, Ind.: We do not know. Address the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Interior Department, Washington, D. C.

E. R., Utica, Neb.: The University of Chicago is a Baptist institution. It is not maintained by funds from the city of Chicago.

E. S., Beulah, Colo.: Venezuela has recognized Cuban independence, and the other South American republics are in hearty sympathy with her.

F. S., Fostoria, O.: Any municipality can impose a license on a peddler. He is not engaged in interstate commerce, and the laws and rulings do not cover his case.

M. E. M., Ainsworth, Ia.: This country has never had a vessel plated with railway rails since early in the civil war. Such a plating would not stand a single shot from modern guns.

G. V. C., Pixley: The bonded debt of the United States at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 1860, was $64,842,287. This is from the official statements of the treasury department.

T. H. M., Columbia, Iowa: Daniel Webster said of Chief Justice Marshall that "when the ermine of the official robe fell upon him it touched nothing less spotless than itself," because Marshall was a gentleman, a man of pure life, the highest integrity, and incorruptible honor.

C. B. G., Mill Point, W. Va.: About one-tenth of the sugar in use is raised here, and nine-tenths imported. A bounty would stimulate the home production, especially of beet sugar, though it might not cheapen it to consumers.

W. M. B., Bobo, Ga.: A tariff means a list of duties on foreign goods imported into this country. No tax is put on goods manufactured in this country, except the internal revenue tax on liquors, tobacco and oleomargarine.

W. G. W., Olympia, Wash.: The reason there were so few free schools in the South before the war was that in the slave states no one was allowed to teach a slave to read or write; the wealthy planters either had private tutors for their children, or sent them to private schools; and the "poor whites" did not care for education.

R. L., Oakley, Kas.: We supposed you asked which was the richer man, Abraham or Job, and so answered. You now say "Abraham or Jabe." We do not understand what you want. Put the question in different form, especially the last name, referring to the scriptural passage in which it occurs.

R. H., Pemberville, O.: Governmental ownership of railroads would not cheapen rates. Both freight and passenger rates are higher in Europe, on government-owned railroads, than here. We printed a long table of comparisons during the campaign last summer. There is but little use of discussing the subject, because the government would have to buy the railroads, creating an enormous bonded debt, and the people are averse to more bonds.

R. A. P., Hazel Green, Wis.: We do not recall any such decision in so many words, but certainly the Supreme Court of the United States could hold no other opinion than that there can be no treason against any one of the states, in the ordinary sense. Treason consists in levying war against, adhering to the enemy, giving them aid and comfort; and as a state can not declare war, treason can only be committed against the United States, not an individual state.

Spring

Is the season for purifying, cleansing and renewing. The accumulations of waste everywhere are being removed. Winter's icy grasp is broken and on all sides are indications of nature's returning life, force and power.

Spring

Is the time for purifying the blood and cleansing the system. Owing to close confinement, diminished perspiration and other causes, in the winter, impurities have not passed out of the system as they should have done, but have accumulated in the blood.

Spring

Is therefore the best time to take Hood's Sarsaparilla, because the system is now most in need of medicine. That Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best blood purifier and Spring medicine is proved by its wonderful cures. A course of Hood's Sarsaparilla now may prevent great suffering later on.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. $1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. Be sure to get HOOD'S and only HOOD'S.

Hood's Pills cure all Liver Ills and Sick Headache. 25 cents. Sold by all druggists or sent by mail in receipt of price by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

THE RETIRED BURGLAR.

An Experience That Was Very Curious and Also Highly Exasperating.

"You remember I told you the other day," said the retired burglar to the New York Sun, "about upsetting a couple of buckets of paste in a room that was being papered, and falling down in the paste and getting all covered with it, and then sitting down in a corner seat in the next room to scrape the paste off my shoes and finding when I got up that I had sofa cushions stuck to me all over? Well, that makes me think of another sticky experience I had once that was somewhat different from that.

"You always look over a bureau and through the bureau drawers in a room when you can. You are pretty sure to find something about a bureau worth carrying off; but you don't always. I set my lamp down one night on top of a bureau, after a preliminary survey over it, without finding anything, and then went through this top drawer without finding anything there; and then I stepped back a little to get at the next drawer easier, or, rather, I was going to step back, but I couldn't. I was stuck fast, standing there in front of the bureau. I couldn't move my feet any mor'n if they'd been strapped down to the floor with iron straps.

"'Course my hands were free and I picked up my lamp and turned it down on the floor. I found on the floor in front of the bureau a board about four feet long and maybe eighteen or twenty inches wide, that I was standing on; it was screwed down to the floor at the four corners, and it was covered all over thick with the stickiest stuff I ever came across. What it was I don't know, but the stickiest glue that ever was would have been like a mild dilution of weak mucilage compared to it. I just simply couldn't move my feet at all. And, unfortunately, for some reason I hadn't worn my rubbers that night. It was my shoes that was stuck down and I'd got to get out of them. Of course I could have unscrewed the board from the floor—I had a screwdriver right there in my bag alongside of me—but what good would that have done? I'd have had to take the board along with me, and, hopping along with a board four feet long and a foot and a half wide fastened to my feet, I'd have made as much noise as dropping boards in a lumber yard. There wasn't anything to do but get out of my shoes, and I bent over 'em carefully and unlaced 'em, and then held on to the bureau and stepped out of them, one at a time, on the floor. You know I hated to leave them shoes there like that, but there wasn't anything else to do. I looked at 'em a minute and then dropped my lamp in my ulster pocket and picked up my bag; that is, I tried to pick it up, but I might just as well have tried to lift the house. I realized then for the first time that I had set the bag down on the sticky board, and it was stuck as tight as my shoes were.

"Well, that made me kind o' mad. I'd carried the old bag for years and got used to it, and I hated to lose it, especially like that. But what could I do about it? Nothing. And then I almost fell over on the board myself when I reached for the bag and it didn't come, and I kind of felt that it wasn't sensible to fool around there too much. There wasn't anybody awake, and I was just as free to move about as ever; but I couldn't help thinking that anybody that would invent a scheme like that might have something else on foot anywhere around the house. So I opened the bag and got the things out of it and dropped 'em in my pocket, and then I took one more look at my shoes and the bag standing there in a sort of irregular row in front of the bureau, and then I left 'em and made a bee line out of the house, carefully avoiding, as far as I could, contact with anything on the way."

STREET NAMES IN LONDON.

There is much that is curious and interesting about the origin and meaning of London street names. Some of them are taken from the names of previous owners or occupants of property in the neighborhood, while others are derived from the signs of old inns, such as the Bell, Crown, Beehive, Mitre, Phoenix, Plough, Star, Swan, etc., and others, again, are due to former monasteries and other churches.

In Mincing Lane, for instance, was once a convent of the Minchuns, the old English feminine for monk; the Minories was the site of the old convent of St. Clara, the nuns of which were called "Sorores Minores," and came to be known as "Minoresses."

Miles Lane is a corruption of St. Michael's lane; Mark Lane for Mart (market) lane; Sermon Lane for Sheremonier lane, the locality of the "sheremoneyers," who sheared or clipped bullion into shape for coining at the exchange near by; Sise lane for St. Osyth's lane; Gutter Lane for Guthrun Lane, from a Dane who owned property there.

The Knighten guild, a company of thirteen knights to whom King Edgar granted land in the neighborhood, is responsible for Nightingale Lane, and Crutched Friars is in memory of the crouched or crossed friars, so-called from the red cross on their robes, who had a monastery there.

That Jane Shore died in a ditch at Shoreditch is only a pathetic legend invented to account for the name of that locality—really derived from John de Sordich, lord in 1343 of what was then a suburban village. Names such as Rosemary, Honeysuckle, etc., were of course given before the outlying districts were swallowed up in the growth of the city.

—Hood's Sarsaparilla is known to be an honest medicine, and it actually cures when all others fail. Try it now.

Frugal Scots.

In England about one in twenty-one of the population has an account in the savings bank; in Wales, one in forty; in Scotland, one in twelve, and in Ireland, one in 100. The average amount owing to English depositors is £1 11s 4d; to the Welsh, 18s; to the Scotch, £1 17s 5d and to the Irish, 7s 10d.—New York Tribune.

His Preference.

First Transient—"If you had got to go into business what line would you choose?"

Second Ditto—"I'd open an employment agency. It would be so nice to be getting other people to work without having any temptation to do any yourself."—Boston Transcript.

HOW SPANIARDS TORTURED.

Before the English occupation of Jamaica the island was in the hands of the Spaniards, who left a record of horrible cruelties behind them. In a museum in the city of Kingston, capital of Jamaica, is preserved a human skeleton and by its side is an iron cage, made to fit the human form.

This dreadful instrument of torture is really an iron shroud so constructed as to closely fit the human body and surround it in its deadly embrace. After the body had been placed within the frame the neck was confined by bands, so that it could not be moved a fraction of an inch. The feet were placed in stirrups with sharp spikes, which pressed into the soles, causing intense agony; the hands were crossed in front of the waist and gyves placed about the wrists to prevent their moving.

The cage was then suspended to the branch of a tree and the occupant either starved to death or was stung to death by insects. The skeleton in the Kingston museum was found some years ago imbedded in the earth at the foot of a tree in its iron shroud and the bones were found to be those of a woman.

Kalamazoo, Mich., is famous for celery. See Thos. Slater's offer on page 6.

In the Yosemite Valley a while ago, a young fellow went out on the edge of a shelving precipice two thousand feet high, and balanced himself on his head. A little slip or little puff of wind would have sent him to eternity. Not one man in a million would be that kind of a fool. But nine men in ten are all the time taking foolish chances.

There is no deadly peril about a little fit of indigestion or biliousness, and yet if a man allows these troubles to get a hold on him he is taking serious risks. Dyspepsia alone seldom kills anybody; that is, it only kills you by inches, and takes a good many years doing it. But it weakens and undermines the constitution so that it is all ready to receive and fertilize the dangerous diseases which do kill you outright.

Disease-germs won't grow in healthy blood any more than corn will grow on a rock. A man who keeps his digestion perfect and his blood pure may eat and drink and breathe disease germs, but they gain no foothold. They are cast out of the system. But a man with a dyspepsia weakened constitution breathes in typhoid or diphtheretic germs and down he goes.

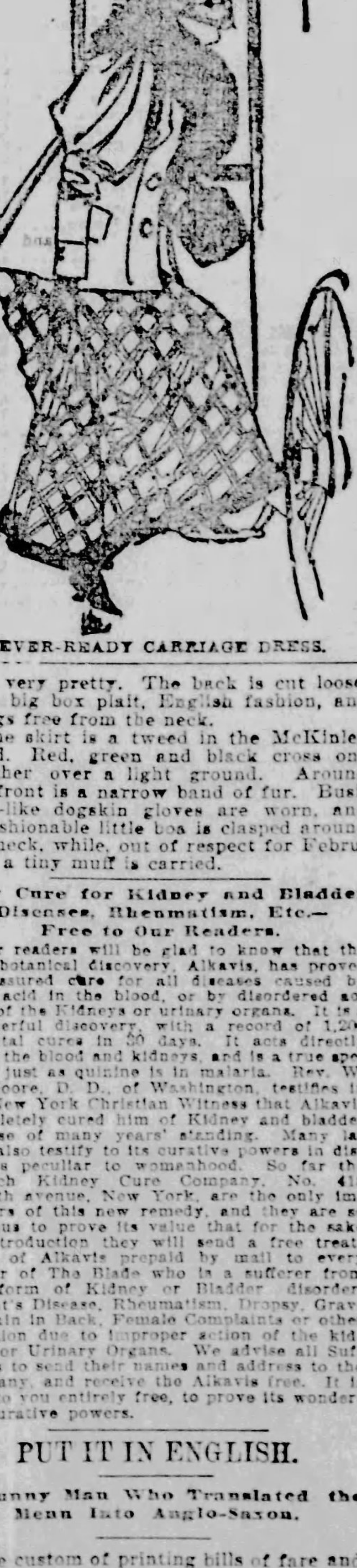
The best health-insurance a man can have is Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It acts directly on the stomach and liver. It gives the blood-making organs power to make healthy blood. It clarifies the blood from all impurities, and builds up the healthy flesh, muscular power and nerve energy, which fortifies you against disease.

His life-long success in the treatment of chronic diseases has given Dr. Pierce's medicines a world-wide reputation. His "Pleasant Pellets" cure constipation.

A CARRIAGE DRESS.

It is cold driving in the winter, whether one goes in cab or in the ever-ready street cars. The cars are warmer, but in either case a good, comfortable dress is needed.

A business woman of this city, who makes many outdoor trips during the winter season, has equipped herself with a coat of tan doeskin. It is light, warm, and very pretty. The back is cut loose, in a big box plait, English fashion, and hangs free from the neck.



EVER-READY CARRIAGE DRESS.

The skirt is a tweed in the McKinley plaid. Red, green and black cross one another over a light ground. Around the front is a narrow band of fur. Business-like dogskin gloves are worn, and a fashionable little boa is clasped around the neck, while, out of respect for February, a tiny muff is carried.

New Cure for Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, Etc.—Free to Our Readers.

Our readers will be glad to know that the new botanical discovery, Alkavis, has proved an assured cure for all diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or by disordered action of the Kidneys or urinary organs. It is a wonderful discovery, with a record of 1,200 hospital cures in 30 days. It acts directly upon the blood and kidneys, and is a true specific, just as quinine is in malaria. Rev. W. B. Moore, D. D., of Washington, testifies in the New York Christian Witness that Alkavis completely cured him of Kidney and bladder disease of many years' standing. Many ladies also testify to its curative powers in disorders peculiar to womanhood. So far the Church Kidney Cure Company, No. 418 Fourth avenue, New York, are the only importers of this new remedy, and they are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of The Blade who is a sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, Female Complaints or other affliction due to improper action of the kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all Sufferers to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. It is sent to you entirely free, to prove its wonderful curative powers.

PUT IT IN ENGLISH.

A Funny Man Who Translated the Menu Into Anglo-Saxon.

The custom of printing bills of fare and menus in French has no excuse, outside of France. Its absurdity is well illustrated by the London Caterer in the following anecdote:

A noted wag one day dropped into a cafe for dinner. The waiter had just flicked a piece of lint from his customer's coat collar, when the guest opened out on him.

"Yes," he said, glancing at the menu, "you may bring me some eggs blushing like Aurora."

"Beg pardon, sir," explained the waiter, "it's not on the bill."

"Isn't, eh? What's this, oeufs a l'aurore?"

"Oh, yes," replied the young man, blushing and shifting somewhat uneasily.

"And I feel like having some breeches in the royal fashion, with velvet sauce."

The waiter turned red, white and blue.

"Got you again," chuckled the guest. "Well, I suppose you call it culotte a la royale sauce veloute."

"Oh, that! Yes, sir; yes, sir," and the waiter briskly rattled the cutlery around the plate, as though he would fain drown the guest's voice.

"Be sure you bring a stew of good Christians."

"Now you are joking," mildly expostulated the waiter, with a sickly smile.

"Not a bit of it, man. See here on your bill compote de bons chretiens."

"Oh—ah—ugh," gulped the waiter.

"And a mouthful of ladies."

"Eh?"

"Bouchee de dames—quick, help—a glass of water—dash it in his face."

But the guest was too late. The waiter was in a dead swoon, from which he did not recover until later in the afternoon.

Occasionally Recalled.

"Your husband died a year ago? You must miss him greatly."

"Not so much. His mother throws a cup at my head occasionally now."—New York Journal.

The Farmstead.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Putting Up Ice on Bank of River.

W. P. K., Virginia: The bank of a river is a good place on which to put up ice, as good drainage may be had. If you do not care to build a house dig out the ground as you would for a cellar. Lay about a foot of sawdust on the bottom and about a foot of sawdust on the sides as you put in the ice. When the place is full place two and a half feet of sawdust on the top of the ice. There should be two or three pipes running from the bottom of the ice outward to carry off any water that may accumulate. This method will keep ice very well. If you wish to build a house lay a floor with boards. Make the sides of the house with double walls, say 8 inches apart, and fill the interstices with sawdust. Lay a foot of sawdust on the floor, and put a foot of sawdust at the sides of the ice as you fill the house. Put two feet of sawdust on top of the ice when you fill the house to within two feet of the top. The house may have either a flat or comb roof, but there should be an opening of 8 inches square at both ends to permit of air circulating over the sawdust on top of the ice.

English Walnuts.

G. J. R., Kansas: The English walnut will no doubt grow well in the Arkansas Valley, on sandy loam. When the temperature is never below 10 degrees, the trees will not be injured by frost. There are English walnut trees growing in central Ohio that have good crops of fruit. You should get the walnuts recently picked. This you can do by writing to California for information, to College of Agriculture of the university, Berkeley. Some of the nurseries may sell young trees. If not, you can plant the nuts in the fall about three inches deep. When the young trees are well up, they may be set out in a permanent locality.

Roup in Fowls.

A. P., Missouri: There is no certain cure for roup. When you see a fowl with the disease, separate it from the other fowls, and keep it in a warm, dry place. Wash its head with equal parts of vinegar and water. Dry thoroughly, and inject sweet oil into the nostrils with a sewing machine can or very small syringe. Put three drops of spirits of camphor in half a teaspoonful of sweet oil, and pour it down the fowl's throat. Do this in the morning and again in the evening. A remedy that has a good reputation is to inject camphorated oil into the nostrils.

Raising Blackberries.

M. H., Michigan: The blackberry flourishes in a rich, mellow and rotten, damp soil. The distance apart to plant, if in rows, five feet, with plants two and a half feet apart in the rows. If in hills, set five feet apart each way. The plants set out either in fall or spring, will not give fruit the first season, but if a good growth is made they will give a full crop the next year. The stem of each plant should be cut back to four or six inches. In two or three weeks the roots will begin to show themselves. Not more than two or three of these should be allowed to grow the first year. Keep the ground free from weeds. When the plants reach a height of three and a half feet, pinch off the terminal shoots. As soon as the fruit is gathered, the stalks that bore should be cut away to make room for the new growth. Leaves or straw make good mulch for winter. Barnyard manure given them in the fall is excellent as the blackberry is a rank feeder, and the manure acts as a protection.

Heaves in Horse.

O. S., Pennsylvania: There is no cure for heaves after the disease has taken a firm hold. Feed wholesome food. Give no hay, but oat or wheat straw. Rub the throat with iodine ointment 2 ozs., mercurial ointment 1 oz. Mix well and thin down with oil. It must be quite thin. Give internally every night one of the following powders: sulphate of copper and pulverized ginger, of each, 1 oz.; pulverized gentian root, 2 ozs.; divide into 16 powders.

Peanut Culture.

W. G. T., Nebraska: Peanuts should be planted in a warm, sandy loam containing some lime. They are usually planted after corn, two bushels of seed to the acre. Sow in drills five feet apart and work with a light cultivator as soon as the plants show themselves. They soon overspread the whole surface, like a bushy, running pea. The small pod contained in the blossom strikes down in the ground and ripens its seeds beneath the surface.

Rape.

J. W. S., Kansas: Rape has not been grown in the United States for seed, so far as the editor knows. The variety known as dwarf Essex has received some attention as a forage plant, and it has given satisfaction, especially as a forage plant for sheep. There are different varieties of rape, which come under the heads of winter and summer rape. The summer rape grows from seed sown early in the spring, and matures the same season. Winter rape is a winter annual. The yield of summer rape is 33 to 50 per cent less than winter rape. Bottom lands are not best adapted to winter rape, on account of liability to frosts. When sown for winter purposes, rape should be sown with a drill or seeding machine. Drill in rows 1½ to 2 feet apart with seed 4 to 5 inches apart in the rows. Four to seven pounds of seed to the acre. Sow ½ to 1 inch deep. Winter rape is sown the last of July or before the middle of August; summer rape in May, or as soon as the frost is out of the ground, which would be earlier in your climate. Rape would no doubt do well in the section of Kansas in which you live.

Corrosive Sublimate for Potato Scab.

M. C. F., Indiana: Soak the seeds for about three hours in a solution composed of one thousandth part of carrosive sublimate (bichloride of mercury) to one of water, or 2¼ ozs. to 15 gallons of water. Do not plant the same land for at least three years after a potato crop is taken from it, select smooth and healthy tubers for seed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Rules for Buttermaking.

The instructor at Cornell Agricultural college, Ithica, N. Y., has sent out a list of rules about butter making and ripening cream. He says:

The practical part of cream ripening is this: Keep your vessel so that it may all ripen evenly and thus avoid loss in churning. Raise the temperature to 62 or 68 degrees and keep it as near that temperature as possible until ripe, and then cool before churning. Well ripened cream should be coagulated or thickened. It should run from a height in a smooth stream like oil. When a paddle is dipped into it and held in the hand, it should stick all over in a thick, even coat, not running off in streaks and showing the surface of the paddle. When the last drop runs off the paddle back into the vat they should leave little dents or depressions on the surface which do not close up for an instant. The cream should have a satin gloss or fresh surface. Churn until the granules are the size of wheat kernels; then draw off the buttermilk and wash through two or three waters, whirling the churn a few times around. Use from a pint to a quart of water per pound of butter. Have the water at a temperature of 40 to 45 degrees in hot weather and from 50 to 62 degrees in winter, always depending upon season, natural solidity of the butter, warmth of room and size of granules. If you do not care about feeding the washings, I would put some salt in my first wash water. It will help to float the granules better, and perhaps dissolve out the casein to some extent. I would generally salt the butter in the churn.

What to Feed.

Dry food is the best for chickens.

Burying grain usually does away with idle hens.

Healthy fowls pick up their food quickly and relish it.

When it can be done, it pays to grind bone for poultry.

Fowls having a good range gather a good variety of food.

The morning feed should be warm, and fed as early as possible.

With poultry, as with everything else, good feeding always pays.

Stale bread soaked in milk makes a good feed for young poultry.

Feeding soft feed exclusively is almost certain to induce disease.

The true secret of profitable breeds is in the feed and care given them.

Cooked corn meal is much better than raw to feed to young poultry.

Care and cleanliness in feeding fowls will be richly repaid in better health and thrift.

Ducks will eat all sorts of coarse food, such as cabbage, chopped turnips, etc., and do well on it, and while they are voracious eaters, they can be fed very cheaply.

When the turkeys have been kept growing from the start, as they should, three weeks of good feeding is all that is necessary to put in a good condition for market.

Turnips, beets, carrots and the cabbage that have failed to head up properly can be used to a good advantage in feeding poultry during the winter. Better results can always be secured if the fowls can have something green during the winter, or something that will in an emergency take its place, and any one of these things can be used to a good advantage.—Wisconsin Ag.

Beet Sugar Industry of France.

The United States consul at Havre, in a recent report, describes the beet sugar industry of France. The crop, he says, pays the farmer better than wheat or any other agricultural product, and hence a large acreage is under beets. In 1894 the area was 1,700,000 acres and the production nearly 18,500,000 tons, or nearly 11 tons to the acre. Fifty to sixty per cent of all this is used for the production of sugar. The experience of French cultivators is stated to be that the cost of growing an acre of beets is $10, omitting the cost of fertilizers, which it is not always necessary to employ. It is said, too, that the leaves and stalks left on the field will furnish much more manure, after they have been fed to cattle, than the beet requires. The bounty paid on sugar exported from Germany has led to less activity in beet sugar production in France in the last few years. Nevertheless, the total quantity exported in 1894-95 was 186,387 tons, of which 110,139 tons went to England. The advantage of beet cultivation is that there is no waste; every part of the vegetable can be used in one way or another. The pulp, after the juice has been expressed for sugar, is largely eaten by cattle, and is found to be very nourishing. The leaves and stalks, when fresh, increase a cow's milk; when dry they afford excellent winter food. "Altogether the beet root, or the residue after the juice has been expressed, supplies, with the leaves and stalks nourishment for cattle and sheep more abundant, perhaps, than any other forage that could have been cultivated on the land. It is said that the leaves are frequently used for adulterating tobacco. The French experience is that all land suitable for growing wheat will also grow beets; but it is necessary to avoid a soil too compact or containing too much clay. The report enters into some detail in the question of soils, position, manuring when necessary, modes of cultivation, harvesting and preserving the crop, and a few words are added as to the manufacture of sugar. Something is said, also, as to experiments being in France, under the authority of the Ministry of Commerce, for obtaining illuminating alcohol from the roots.

Bees and Their Work.

At the Winnebago County Farmers' Institute, Dr. C. C. Miller, of Marengo, Ill., made a good point when he said that the least valuable part of the work of bees was in the storing of honey. Bees do a vastly more profitable work for the farmers of this country than in extracting the honey from the flowers of the field. It is their work to fertilize the flowers of fruits and grains in order that we may harvest the crops that we toil to raise. If it were not for the bees we would not have fruits of any kinds and most of the grain would not fill.

Bees occupy the unique position of doing a valuable work for their owners, and at the same time paying for the work they do gratis.

The ever-recurring question of whether bees destroy grapes and berries came up during the doctor's remarks, and he promptly said they did not. He explained that the jaws of a bee are so small that it is impossible for one of them to bite into the side of a grape. He illustrated this by saying that a man could as easily bite a piece from the side of a large pumpkin as a bee could from a grape. They cannot pierce the skin of a grape with their tongue, because that organ is made like an exceedingly soft and pliable brush. A gentleman present stoutly insisted that bees belonging to his neighbor had eaten his crop of red raspberries to the last one. There seems to be a mistake somewhere, and would like to have our readers report if they know of any similar case.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections, and also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing with stamp, naming this paper. W. A. Noyes, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

Well Named.

"Arthur is in love with a chorus girl," said the fond mother, nervously.

"I guess it won't hurt him," said the experienced father. "It is only calf love."—Indianapolis Journal.

Every man should read the offer of Thos. Slater on page 6 of this paper.

FREE CURE FOR MEN

A MICHIGAN MAN OFFERS TO SEND HIS DISCOVERY FREE.

Claims to Be a Benefactor to Weakened Mankind.

There is always more or less suspicion attached to anything that is offered free, but sometimes a man is so overflowing with generosity that he cannot rest until his discovery is known to the world, in order that his fellow men may profit by what he has discovered. It is upon this principle that a resident of Kalamazoo, Mich., desires to send free to mankind a prescription which will cure them of any form of nervous debility; relieves them of all the doubt and uncertainty which such men are peculiarly liable to and restores the organs to natural size and vigor. As it costs nothing to try the experiment it would seem that any man, suffering with the nervous troubles that usually attack men who never stopped to realize what might be the final result, ought to be deeply interested in a remedy which will restore them to health, strength and vigor, without which they continue to live an existence of untold misery. As the remedy in question was the result of many years' research as to what combination would be peculiarly effective in restoring to men the strength they need, it would seem that all men suffering with any form of nervous weakness ought to write for such a remedy at once. A REQUEST TO H. C. OLDS, BOX 1785 KALAMAZOO, MICH., STATING THAT YOU ARE NOT SENDING FOR THE PRESCRIPTION OUT OF IDLE CURIOSITY, BUT THAT YOU WISH TO MAKE USE OF THE MEDICINE BY GIVING IT A TRIAL, will be answered promptly and without evidence as to where information came from.

The prescription is sent free, and although some may wonder how Mr. Olds can afford to give away his discovery, there is no doubt about the offer being genuine. CUT THIS OUT AND SEND TO MR. OLDS SO THAT HE MAY KNOW HOW YOU CAME TO [illegible]

WE HAVE NO AGENTS

but have sold direct to the consumer for 24 years, at wholesale prices, saving them the dealers' profits. Ship anywhere for examination. Everything warranted. 100 styles of Carriages, 90 styles of Harness. Top Buggies as low as [illegible] Spring Wagons [illegible]

ELKHART CARRIAGE AND HARNESS MFG. CO., W. B. PRATT, Sec'y, ELKHART, IND.

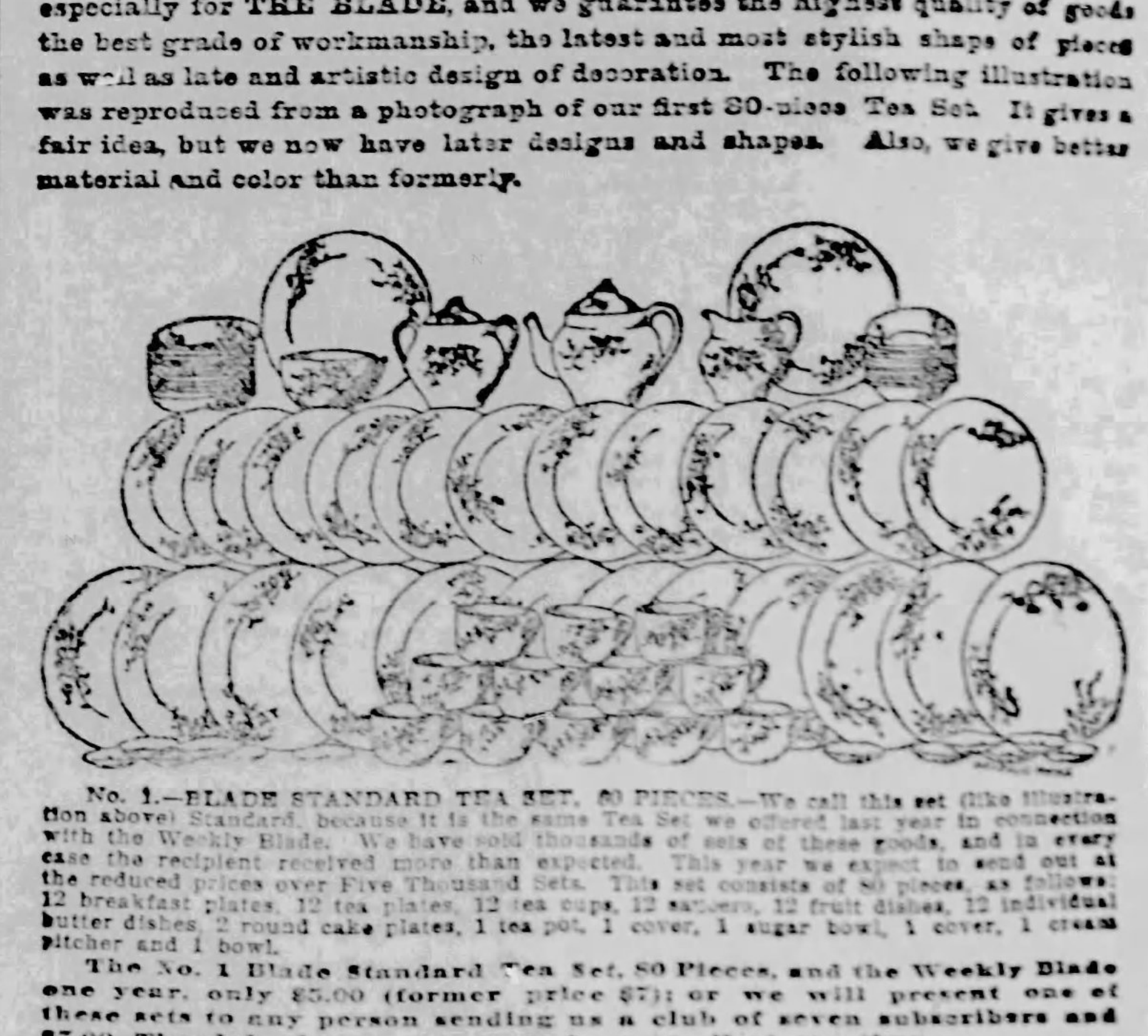
BLADE CHINA TEA SETS

—AND—

DINNER SETS.

Another Reduction---Later Designs.

Eighty, Fifty-six, One Hundred and Eight or Twenty-eight pieces handsomely decorated in several colors and gold band. These goods are made especially for THE BLADE, and we guarantee the highest quality of goods the best grade of workmanship, the latest and most stylish shape of pieces as well as late and artistic design of decoration. The following illustration was reproduced from a photograph of our Tea Set No. 1. It gives a fair idea, but [illegible] later designs and shapes. Also, we give better material and color than formerly.



No. 1.—BLADE STANDARD TEA SET, 80 PIECES.—[illegible]

The No. 1 Blade Standard Tea Set, 80 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only [illegible] or we will present one of these sets to any person sending us a club of seven subscribers and $7.00. The club of seven names to be sent all at one time.

No. 2.—BLADE TEA SET, 56 PIECES.—[illegible]

The No. 2 Tea Set, 56 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade, one year, only [illegible] or we will present one of these Sets to any person sending us a club of six subscribers and $6. The club of six names to be sent all at one time.

No. 3.—BLADE DINNER SET, 108 PIECES.—[illegible]

The No. 3 Blade Dinner Set, 108 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only [illegible] or we will present one of these sets to any person sending us a club of 16 Subscribers and $16. The club of 16 names to be sent all at one time.

No. 4.—BLADE CHINA SORTS, 28 PIECES, [illegible]

The No. 4 Blade China Sorts, 28 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only [illegible] or we will present one of these Assortments to any person sending us a club of eight subscribers and $8. The club of eight names to be sent all at one time.

NOTE—[illegible] ers to buy, first, our No. 1 Blade Standard Set. Afterwards, if pleased with the goods, you may order our No. 4 set, the two combined making you a complete dinner set.

General Directions and Information.

ORDER BY NUMBER. The goods are carefully packed in box by manufacturer and shipped direct from the pottery to the purchaser upon our order. We shall order every package shipped by freight unless otherwise instructed. The receiver pays transportation. From 25 cents to $1, according to distance, will cover freight east of the Missouri River, while it may cost somewhere near $2 to pay freight to points beyond the Rockies. We do not advise shipping by express. Never before was so much value offered for so little money. Twenty years ago only the rich could afford such goods as we offer here. We guarantee these goods the best Stone China in the world, superior in enamel, color, style and finish to the best imported wares. We make no profit. We want and will have as a result of this offer, thousands of clubs. These articles will be useful in the house of every reader of The Blade, no matter whether rich or poor. Any person who will try it can raise a club of ten to twenty for The Blade in one day. Get about it before some one else canvasses the field. We are prepared to fill orders promptly.

THE BLADE, Toledo, O.

Talmage's Sermon.

A SHATTERED FAITH.

Wrecked Lives Are Worth Saving, Even the Eleventh Hour.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Rev. Dr. Talmage was to have preached Sunday at De Funiak Springs, Fla., but is confined to his house with an attack of influenza. He had prepared the following sermon, the subject of which is "A Shattered Faith," and the text: Acts xxvii. 44: And some on broken pieces of the ship.

Never off Goodwin Sands, or the Skerries, or Cape Hatteras, was a ship in worse predicament than, in the Mediterranean hurricane, was the grain ship on which 276 passengers were driven on the coast of Malta, five miles from the metropolis of the island called Citta Vecchia. After a two weeks' tempest, when the ship was entirely disabled, and captain and crew had become completely demoralized, an old missionary took command of the vessel. He was small, crooked-backed and sore-eyed, according to tradition. It was Paul, the only unscared man aboard. He was no more afraid of a Euroclydon tossing the Mediterranean Sea, now up to the gates of heaven, and now sinking it to the gates of hell, than he was afraid of a kitten playing with a string. He ordered them all down to take their rations, first asking for them a blessing. Then he insured all their lives, telling them they would be rescued, and, so far from losing their heads, they would not lose so much of their hair as you could cut off with one click of the scissors; nay, not a thread of it, whether it were gray with age, or golden with youth. "There shall not a hair fall from the head of any of you."

Knowing that they can never get to the desired port, they make the sea on the 14th night black with overthrown cargo, so that when the ship strikes it will not strike heavily. At daybreak they saw a creek, and in their exigency resolved to make for it. And so they cut the cables, took in the two paddles they had on those old boats, and hoisted the mainsail so that they might come with such force as to be driven high up on the beach by some fortunate billow. There she goes—tumbling toward the rocks, now prow foremost, now stern foremost, now rolling over to the larboard, now a wave dashes clear over the deck, and it seems as if the old craft has gone for ever. But up she comes again. Paul's arms around a mast, he cries: "All is well, God has given me all those that sail with me." Crash! went the prow, with such force that it broke off the mast. Crash! went the timbers, till the seas rushed through from side to side of the vessel. She parts amidships, and into a thousand fragments the vessel goes, and into the waves 276 immortals are precipitated. Some of them had been brought up on the seashore, and had learned to swim, and with their chins just above the waves and by the strokes of both arms and propulsion of both feet, they put out for the beach, and reach it. But alas for those others! They have never learned to swim, or they were wounded by the falling of the mast, or the nervous shock was too great for them. And others had been weakened by long sea sickness.

Oh, what will become of them? "Take that piece of a rudder," says Paul to one. "Take that fragment of a spar," says Paul to another. "Take that image of Castor and Pollux." "Take that plank from the lifeboat." "Take anything and head for the beach." What a struggle for life in the breakers! Oh, the merciless waters, how they sweep over the heads of men, women, and children! Hold on there! Almost ashore; keep up your courage. Remember what Paul told you. There, the receding wave on the beach leaves in the sand a whole family. There crawls up out of the surf the centurion. There, another plank comes in, with its freightage of an immortal soul. They must by this time all be saved. Yes; there comes in last of all, for he had been overseeing the rest, the old missionary, who wrings the water from his gray beard and cries out: "Thank God, all are here!"

Gather around a fire and call the roll. Paul builds a fire, and when the bundle of sticks begin to crackle, and, standing and sitting around the blaze, the passengers begin to recover from their chill, and the wet clothes begin to dry, and warmth begins to come into all the shivering passengers, let the purser of the vessel go round and see if any of the poor creatures are missing. Not one of the crowd that were plunged into the sea. How it relieves our anxiety as we read: "Some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass that they escaped all safe to land."

Having on previous occasions looked at the other passengers, I confine myself to-day to an examination of those who came in on broken pieces of the ship. There is something about them that excites in me an intense interest. I am not so much interested in those that could swim. They got ashore as I expected. A mile of water is not a very great undertaking for a strong swimmer, or even two miles are not. But I cannot stop thinking about those on broken pieces of the ship. The great Gospel ship is the finest of the universe, and can carry more passengers than any craft ever constructed, and you could no more wreck it than you could wreck the throne of God Almighty. I wish all the people would come aboard of her. I could not promise a smooth voyage, for ofttimes it will be tempestuous or a chopped sea, but I could promise safe arrival for all who took passage on that Great Eastern, so called by me because its commander came out of the East, the star of the East a badge of his authority.

But a vast multitude do not take regular passage. Their theology is broken in pieces, and their life is broken in pieces, and their habits are broken in pieces, and their worldly and spiritual prospects are broken in pieces, and yet I believe they are going to reach the shining shore, and I am encouraged by the experience of those people who are spoken of in the text: "Some on broken pieces of the ship."

One object in this sermon is to encourage all those who can not take the whole system of religion as we believe it, but who really believe something, to come ashore on that one plank.

I do not underrate the value of a great theological system, but where in all the Bible is there anything which says: Believe in John Calvin and thou shalt be saved? or, believe in Arminius and thou shalt be saved? or, believe in Synod of Dort and thou shalt be saved? or, believe in the Thirty-nine Articles and thou shalt be saved? A man may be orthodox and go to hell, or heterodox and go to heaven. The man who in the deep affection of his heart accepts Christ is saved, and the man who does not accept him is lost.

I believe in both the Heidelberg and Westminster catechisms, and I wish you all did; but you may believe in nothing they contain except the one idea, and that you are one of them, and you are instantly rescued. If you can come in on the grand old ship, I would rather have you get aboard, but if you can only find a piece of wood as long as the human body, or a piece as wide as the outspread human arms, and either of them is a piece of the cross, come in on that piece. Tens of thousands of people are to-day kept out of the Kingdom of God because they can not believe everything.

I am talking with a man thoughtful about his soul who has lately traveled through New England and passed the night at Andover. He says to me: "I can not believe that in this life the destiny is irrevocably fixed; I think there will be another opportunity of repentance after death." I say to him: "My brother, what has that to do with you? Don't you realize that the man who waits for another chance after death when he has a good chance before death, is a stark fool? Had not you better take the plank that is thrown to you now and head for shore, rather than wait for a plank that may by invisible hands be thrown to you after you are dead? Do as you please, but as for myself, with pardon for all my sins offered me now, and all the joys of time and eternity offered me now, I instantly take them, rather than run the risk of such other chance as the wise men think they can peel off or twist out of a Scripture passage that has for all the Christian centuries been interpreted another way." You say: "I do not like Princeton theology, or New Haven theology, or Andover theology." I do not ask you on board either of these great men-of-war, their portholes filled with the great siege-guns of ecclesiastical battle. But I do ask you to take the one plank of the gospel that you do believe in and strike out for the pearl-strung beach of heaven.

Says some other man: "I would attend to religion if I was quite sure about the doctrine of election and free agency, but that mixes me all up." Those things used to bother me, but I have no more perplexity about them: for I say to myself: "If I love Christ and live a good, honest, useful life, I am elected to be saved; and if I do not love Christ, and live a bad life, I will be damned, and all the theological seminaries of the universe cannot make it any different." I floundered a long while in the sea of sin and doubt, and it was rough as the Mediterranean on the fourteenth night, when they threw the grain overboard, but I saw there was mercy for a sinner, and that plank I took, and I have been warming myself by the bright fire on the shore ever since.

While I am talking to another man about his soul he tells me: "I do not become a Christian because I do not believe there is any hell at all." Ah! don't you? Do all the people of all beliefs and no belief at all, of good morals and bad morals, go straight to a happy heaven? Do the holy and the debauched have the same destination? At midnight, in a hallway, the owner of a house and a burglar meet; they both fire, and both are wounded, but the burglar dies in five minutes and the owner of the house lives a week after; will the burglar be at the gate of heaven, waiting, when the house owner comes in? Will the debauchee and the libertine go right in among the families of heaven? I wonder if Herod is playing on the banks of the river of life with the children he massacred! I wonder if Charles Guiteau and John Wilkes Booth are up there shooting at a mark! I do not now controvert it, although I must say that for such a miserable heaven I have no admiration. But the bible does not say: "Believe in perdition and be saved." Because all are saved, according to your theory, that ought not to keep you from loving and serving Christ. Do not refuse to come ashore because all the others, according to your theory, are going to get ashore. You may have a different theory about chemistry, about astronomy, about the atmosphere, from that which others adopt, but you are not, therefore, hindered from action. Because your theory of light is different from others you do not refuse to open your eyes. Because your theory of air is different, you do not refuse to breathe. Because your theory about the stellar system is different, you do not refuse to acknowledge the north star. Why should the fact that your theological theories are different hinder you from acting upon what you know? If you have not a whole ship fastened in the theological dry docks to bring you to wharfage, you have at least a plank. "Some on broken pieces of the ship."

"But I don't believe in revivals!" Then go to your room, and all alone, with your door locked, give your heart to God, and join some church where the thermometer never gets higher than fifty in the shade.

"But I do not believe in baptism!" Come in without it and settle that matter afterward. "But there are so many inconsistent Christians!" Then come in and show them by a good example how professors should act. "But I don't believe in the Old Testament!" Then come in on the New. "But I don't like the Book of Romans!" Then come in on Matthew or Luke. Refusing to come to Christ whom you admit to be the Saviour of the lost, because you cannot admit other things, you are like a man out there in that Mediterranean tempest, and tossed in the Melita breakers, refusing to come ashore until he can mend the pieces of the broken ship.

I hear him say: "I won't go in on any of these planks until I know in what part of the ship they belong. When I can get the windlass in the right place, and the sails set, and that keel-piece where it belongs, and that floor-timber right, and these ropes untangled, I will go ashore. I am an old sailor, and know all about ships for forty years, and as soon as I can get the vessel afloat in good shape I will come in." A man drifting by on a piece of wood overhears him and says: "You will drown before you get that ship reconstructed. Better do as I am doing. I know nothing about ships, and never saw one before I came on board this, and I cannot swim a stroke, but I am going ashore on this shivered timber." The man in the offing, while trying to mend his ship, goes down. The man who trusted to the plank is saved. O my brother, let your smashed-up system of theology go to the bottom, while you come in on a splintered spar! "Some on broken pieces of the ship."

You may get all your difficulties settled as Garibaldi, the magnetic Italian, got his gardens made. When the war between Austria and Sardinia broke out he was living at Caprera, a very rough and uncultured island home. But he went forth with his sword to achieve the liberation of Naples and Sicily, and gave nine million people free government, under Victor Emmanuel. Garibaldi, after being absent two years from Caprera, returned, and, when he approached it, he found that his home had by Victor Emmanuel, as a surprise, been Edenized. Trimmed shrubbery had taken the place of barrenness, and the old rookery in which he once lived had given way to a pictured mansion. And I tell you if you will come and enlist under the banner of our Victor Emmanuel, and follow him through thick and thin, and fight his battles, and endure his sacrifices, you will find after awhile that he has changed your heart from a jungle of thorny scepticism into a garden all abloom with luxuriant joy that you have never dreamt of. From a tangled Caprera of sadness into a paradise of God.

I do not know how your theological system went to pieces. It may be that your parents started you with only one plank, and you believe little or nothing. Or they may have been too rigid and severe in religious discipline, and cracked you over the head with a psalm book. It may be that some partner in business who was a member of an evangelical church played on you a trick that disgusted you with religion. It may be that you have associates who have talked against Christianity in your presence until you are "all at sea," and you dwell more on things that you do not believe than on things you do believe. You are in one respect like Lord Nelson, when a signal was lifted that he wished to disregard, and he put his sea-glass to his blind eye and said: "I really do not see the signal." Oh, my hearer, put this field glass of the gospel no longer to your blind eye, and say, I cannot see, but put it to your other eye, the eye of faith, and you will see Christ, and he is all you need to see.

If you can believe nothing else, you certainly believe in vicarious suffering, for you see it almost every day in some shape. The steamship Knickerbocker, of the Cromwell line, running between New Orleans and New York, was in great storms, and the captain and crew saw the schooner Mary Dr. Cranmer, of Philadelphia, in distress. The weather cold, the waves mountain high, the first officer of the steamship and four men put into a lifeboat to save the crew of the schooner, and reached the vessel and towed it out of danger, the wind shifting so that the schooner was saved. But the five men of the steamship coming back, their boat capsized, yet righted again and came on, the sailors coated with ice. The boat capsized again, and three times upset and was righted, and a line was thrown the poor fellows, but their hands were frozen so they could not grasp it, and a great wave rolled over them, and they went down, never to rise again till the sea gives up its dead. Appreciate that heroism and self-sacrifice of the brave fellows all who can, and can we not appreciate the Christ who put out into a more biting cold and into a more overwhelming surge, to bring us out of infinite peril into everlasting safety? The wave of human hate rolled over him from one side and the wave of hellish fury rolled over him on the other side. Oh, the thickness of the night and the thunder of the tempest into which Christ plunged for our rescue!

Come in on one narrow beam of the Cross. Let all else go and cling to that; put that under you, and with the earnestness of a swimmer struggling for his life put out for shore. There is a great warm fire of welcome already built, and already many, who were as far out as you are, are standing in its genial and heavenly glow. The angels of God's rescue are wading out into the surf to clutch your hand, and they know how exhausted you are, and all the redeemed prodigals of heaven are on the beach with new white robes to clothe all those who come in on the broken pieces of the ship.

My sympathies are for such all the more because I was naturally skeptical, disposed to question everything about this life and the next, and was in danger of being further out to sea than any of the two hundred and seventy-six in the Mediterranean breakers, and I was sometimes the annoyance of my theological professor because I asked so many questions. But I came in on a plank. I knew Christ was the saviour of sinners, and that I was a sinner, and I got ashore, and I do not propose to go out on the sea again. I have not for thirty minutes discussed the controvered points of theology in thirty years, and during the rest of my life I do not propose to discuss them for thirty seconds.

I would rather, in a mud scow, try to weather the worst cyclone that ever swept up from the Caribbean, than risk my immortal soul in useless and perilous discussions in which some of my brethren in the ministry are indulging. They remind me of a company of sailors standing on the Ramsgate pierhead, from which the lifeboats are usually launched, and coolly discussing the different styles of oarlocks and how deep a boat ought to set in the water, while a hurricane is in full blast, and there are three steamers crowded with passengers going to pieces in the offing. An old tar, the muscles of his face working with nervous excitement, cries out: "This is no time to discuss such things. Man the life-boat! Who will volunteer? Out with her into the surf! Pull, my lads; pull for the wreck! Ha! ha! Now we have them! Lift them in and lay them down on the bottom of the boat. Jack, you try to bring them to. Put these flannels around their hands and feet, and I will pull for the shore. God help me! There! Landed! Huzza!" When there are so many struggling in the waves of sin and sorrow and wretchedness, let all else go but salvation for time and salvation forever.

I bethink myself that there are some here whose opportunity or whose life is a mere wreck, and they have only a small piece left. You started in youth with all sails set, and everything promised a grand voyage, but you have sailed in the wrong direction, or have foundered on a rock. You have only a fragment of time left. Then come in on that one plank. "Some on broken pieces of the ship."

You admit you are all broken up, one decade of your life gone by, two decades, three decades, a half-century, perhaps three-quarters of a century gone. The hour-hand and the minute-hand of your clock of life are almost parallel, and soon it will be twelve and your day ended. Clear discouraged, are you? I admit it is a sad thing to give all of our lives that are worth anything to sin and the devil, and then at last make God a present of a first-rate corpse. But the past you cannot recover. Get on board that old ship or you never will. Have you only one more year left, one more month, one more week, one more day, one more hour—come in on that. Perhaps if you get to Heaven God may let you go out on some great mission to some other world, where you can somewhat atone for your lack of service in this.

From many a death bed I have seen the hands thrown up in desperation something like this: "My life has been wasted. I had good mental faculties and fine social position and great opportunity, but through worldliness and neglect all has gone to waste save these few remaining hours. I now accept of Christ and shall enter heaven through his mercy; but alas! alas! that when I might have entered the heaven of eternal rest with a full cargo, and been greeted by the waving hands of a multitude in whose salvation I had borne a blessed part, I must confess I now enter the harbor of heaven on broken pieces of the ship."

50 lbs. of Coal

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A certain amount of fat, burned daily, would keep your body warm and healthy. But your digestion is bad, and you don't get it from ordinary fat-food. Hence you are chilly, you catch cold easily, you have coughs and shivers; while pneumonia, bronchitis, or consumption finds you with no resistive power.

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Two sizes, 50 cts. and $1.00

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SCOTT & BOWNE, New York.

Truth in a Nutshell.

Impure blood is the natural result of close confinement in house, school room or shop. Blood is purified by Hood's Sarsaparilla, and all the disagreeable results of impure blood disappear with the use of this medicine. If you wish to feel well, keep your blood pure with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

HOOD'S PILLS are the best family cathartic and liver medicine. Gentle, reliable, sure.

HOGS OF THE WATER.

The Carp Devours the Eggs of Other and Better Food Fish.

Of recent years large numbers of carp have been brought to the Toledo market from up-river points and Ten Mile creek, but arrests have been made of carp-fishermen, and but few are now brought in. There are three kinds of carp—the full-scale, part scale, and carp entirely destitute of scales. The carp is reckoned among the poorest of food fish in American waters, and it was a bad thing when the United States fish commissioners determined to introduce it into American streams. As a table food, it is not so good as the red horse or black suckers brought to the Toledo market. It is claimed that wherever it has secured a foothold the better kinds of food-fish rapidly decrease in numbers through the former devouring the eggs of the latter. It fouls clear water by its filth-loving habits, and in muddy streams or ponds a disagreeable taste is imparted. The only thing to recommend it is, that it grows rapidly, and will wallow around and live in ponds where other kinds of fish will die. It is fit to be propagated only where other fish cannot be purchased. American fresh water fishes are better than any that have been introduced from Europe. Among those introduced the carp is the poorest.

The carp was first placed in the Maumee river and waters near Toledo by the late D. Y. Howell. It was thought at that time that a great thing was being done by Mr. Howell, who was then Ohio fish commissioner, but since the carp has rapidly increased in numbers, and has become an article of commerce, its habits have become known, and the condemnation against it is increasing. It devours the eggs of other fish, thus decreasing their numbers. It has been very destructive to the wild rice along the bay and lake, and has done so much damage in many places as to entirely destroy the feeding grounds of wild ducks.

Along the lake shore in the summer time, the carp may be seen in among the wild rice, with their backs sticking out of the water. They root about like hogs, and they are very properly called "the hogs of the water." There have been many reasons advanced why the fish are getting scarce in the Maumee river, bay and lake, but a reason that should not be lost sight of is that the carp destroys the eggs of fish.

Shee, Too.

"Might I ask," said a lady from South America, "why that plain person at the far side of the room arrogates unto herself so many airs?"

"She is a Daughter of the Revolution," said the one interrogated, in awed tones. "Her ancestors fought in the revolution."

"Oh," said the lady from South America, "I myself am a daughter of seventeen of them."—Indianapolis Journal.

Great Inducement.

In an advertisement for a young gentleman who left his parents it was stated that "if Master Jacky will return to his disconsolate parents he shall be allowed to sweeten his own tea."—Tit-Bits.

Seems to Be Qualified.

"Is Mrs. Bellingham a daughter of the revolution?"

"I think so. Her father used to run a steam lathe."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Not Visible.

Heroine—Alas, alas, I am undone!

Supe (sotto voce)—Never mind, miss, go on with your part. It don't show.—Yale Record.

Her Upward Flight.

Hewitt—I hear your servant left without giving you any notice.

Jewett—Yes; she lighted the fire with kerosene.—New York Journal.

PICK YOUR PLACE!

JUICY FRUIT NOT GOBBLED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The Office-Seekers More Numerous Than Ever, While the Number of Places is Less.

The office-seekers who have been driven from Canton by the recent illness of the President-elect have been swarming to the Capitol and are lying in wait for the arrival of the President-elect. The fact that the civil service law has been so extended as to cover almost all of the available places at the gift of the President, does not seem to deter those who are anxious to serve their country or abate one iota their zeal in pushing their claims. It certainly has been a wise thing for the President-elect to cut off the horde of visitors at Canton during the last days of his stay there, for when he arrives in Washington he will find enough of them here to keep him busy for weeks. It has been supposed that nearly all of the offices left at Major McKinley's disposal after March 4 are confined to the diplomatic and consular service. But this is a mistake, for there are quite a number of good places still outside the civil service law, which may be filled by good Republicans.

A list of these places may help some of those who have not yet made up their minds exactly what they want to select their places, and they are therefore given and are as follows:

Interstate commerce commissioners (five) each	$7,500
Solicitor general	7,000
Commissioner of internal revenue	6,000
Treasurer	6,000
Comptroller of the treasury	5,500
Assistant comptroller	5,000
Comptroller of the currency	5,000
Commissioner of labor	5,000
Superintendent of coast survey	5,000
Commissioner of patents	5,000
Commissioner of pensions	5,000
Director of geological survey	5,000
Assistant attorney general (five) each	5,000
Private secretary	5,000
Director of Bureau American Republics	5,000
Commissioner of fisheries	5,000
Commissioner of land office	5,000

The above are all very much sought after and pay fairly good salaries. In addition to these there are others embracing positions in this city, outside of the classified serivce, that pay from $2,000 to $4,500 per annum, as follows:

Assistant secretary of state	$4,500
Second assistant secretary of state	3,500
Third assistant secretary of state	3,500
Assistant secretaries of the treasury (three) each	4,500
Six auditors, each	4,000
Six deputy auditors, each	2,500
Assistant treasurer	3,600
Deputy comptroller of currency	2,800
Register of the treasury	4,000
Assistant treasurer	2,250
Deputy commissioner of internal revenue	3,200
Commissioner of navigation	3,600
Supervising surgeon general	4,000
Supervising inspector general of steamboats	3,500
Director of mint	4,500
Commissioner general of emigration	4,000
Assistant secretary of war	4,500
Assistant secretary of the navy	4,500
First assistant postmaster general	4,000
Second assistant postmaster general	4,000
Third assistant postmaster general	4,000
Assistant attorney general for postoffice	4,000
First assistant secretary of the interior	4,500
Assistant secretary of the interior	4,000
Assistant commissioner of patents	3,000
Superintendent of Soldiers' Home	4,000
Clerk of the court of private land claims	2,000
Solicitor of internal revenue	4,500
Solicitor department of state	3,500
Three chief examiners patent office, each	3,000
First deputy commissioner of pensions	3,600
Second deputy commissioner of pensions	3,600
Pension agent	4,000
Assistant commissioner of land office	2,000
Commissioner of Indian affairs	4,000
Commissioner of Indian schools	3,000
Commissioner of education	3,000
Commissioner of railroads	4,500
Assistant secretary of agriculture	4,500
Director of bureau of animal industry	4,000
Chief of weather bureau	4,500
Civil service commissioners (three) each	3,500
Chief examiner civil service	3,000

Then there is the public printer, at a salary of $4,500, and commissioners of the District of Columbia—three—at $5,000 each.

VELVET SHIRT WAISTS.

They Are the Latest House Bodices and Come in All Colors.

In the window of a gentleman's furnishing store there hung, side by side, a dozen shirt waists. Women passing by stopped to look out of curiosity, then remained to admire. The shirt waists were of plaid velvet in every color of the rainbow. The price marked upon them was $18, but that they could be made at home for less every feminine beholder knew.

One of the waists was a brilliant cardinal plaided with black. Another was emerald and black separated by tiny stripes of scarlet. Still another was ultra-marine, plaided with a paler shade of blue and tiny stripes of yellow.

PLAID VELVET WAIST.

The waists were made precisely alike. The sleeves were a full bishop to the wrist. The waist was gathered front and back, and the front had a double box plait. A rim of gold braid, with gold buckle, made the belt.

Though it sounds incongruous, it is a fact that linen collars and cuffs are worn with these velvet waists. And after one has become accustomed to them there is a singular charm about their neatness that speaks volumes in their favor. The only drawback to linen is its expense, as it must be laundried. They tell stories of certain neat and ultra-refined women who have mastered the details of collar and cuff pressing until all can be accomplished in one's own room with a little soapsuds and a nickel polishing-iron.

—Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant is very efficacious in cases of Croup. Give it before you go for the doctor. It's the right remedy, and may save a life.

If bilious, take Jayne's Painless Sanative Pills.

Where to Find Repose.

Tourist—"But you Americans are always on the rush, you have none of that poise, that repose which marks the Europeans."

Citizen—"Oh, wait, wait! You haven't been through the government offices yet."—Detroit News.

A DOWAGER'S CAPE.

Pretty Velours Wrap Sketched at a Reception.

At a recent reception an old-young matron, turning into the forties, wore a gown of quaint old figured cloth, with spots in dahlia. The bodice was cut rounding in the neck, and over her shoulders was thrown a cape of black and white striped velours, with an irregular figure in black.

The cape was cut in scallops to give a ruffling effect along the edge, and, running around it was a deep ruffle of pale rose silk ribbon with an edge of black satin. Underneath was a double ruffle of soft lace. A broad jabot of the rose ribbon extended around the neck and down the front.

The only trimming was an applique of iridescent beads and braid in long points from the neck. The lining was a soft dahlia silk.

This combination of dahlia and black is much seen. The black subdues the brilliancy of the former color and gives the complexion that rosy hue so much desired.

HIS PERSONAL EQUATION.

A Keen Analysis of Gladstone's Character by John Bright.

An English editor, a certain Mr. C. A. Cooper, who has published his "Reminiscences" and unlike many other authors of this class has remembered many things worth hearing, was for several years in confidential relations with John Bright. In one of his familiar conversations about men and affairs Gladstone was, of course, frequently spoken of. We quote:

Bright never under-estimated his power. "He is an honest man," said Bright; "he believes what he says. The worst of it is that he too readily believes what he wishes to believe."

"Is not that," I asked, "something like self-deceit?"

"No," was the reply. "Mr. Gladstone sees an object which he thinks of vital importance, and he turns in all directions for arguments in support of it. He finds them, and becomes unconscious of anything outside of them. That is not self-deceit."

"But surely," I said, "that is a dangerous quality in a statesman—that he should only be able to see one side of a question, and that the side he wishes to see?"

"No," said Bright, "I don't think it is. Every man who has done anything great in the world has been of that constitution. You can not do a great thing if you have doubts of your own position and reasons."

"Still," I urged, "Mr. Gladstone might take a course that was in the opinion of most people likely to be ruinous; what then?"

"Oh, then, 'most people' would have to fight him." He added: "I see your point, and agree with it. Mr. Gladstone is like fire. He is a good servant, and may be a bad master."

This is keen analysis of a complex character. It is more just, probably, than the average judgment either of Mr. Gladstone's friends or enemies.

HOW TO FIND OUT.

Fill a bottle or common water glass with urine and let it stand twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates a diseased condition of the kidneys. When urine stains linen it is positive evidence of kidney trouble. Too frequent desire to urinate or pain in the back is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

WHAT TO DO.

There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, fulfills every wish in relieving pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passages. It corrects inability to hold the urine and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effects following the use of liquor, wine or beer, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to get up many times during the night to urinate. The mild and the extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists, price fifty cents and one dollar. For a sample bottle and pamphlet, both sent free by mail, mention The Blade and send your full postoffice address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. The proprietors of this paper guarantee the genuineness of this offer.

FUN AND ITS WRITERS.

He—"What will the world say at our divorce?" The Millionaire Spouse—"That a fool and his money are soon parted."—Life.

She—"Have you many poor relations?" He—"None that I know." She—"Many rich ones?" He—"None that know me."—Tit-Bits.

Ada—"I notice Amelia has dated her letter 1896." Amy—"Yes; she won't admit that she's reached 1897 yet."—Yonkers Statesman.

Mamma—"Johnny, when you feel angry, you should always count ten before you say anything or do anything." Johnny—"But it takes too long."—Puck.

Funnicus—"I tell you that I find it pretty hard work turning out a column of jokes every day." McCabe—"Yes; there's no fun in it."—Philadelphia North American.

"Nothing but leaves." With a deep sigh of satisfaction the old smoker looked at his cigar again. "Nothing but leaves!" he repeated. "And yet (puff, puff) that's why I like it."—Detroit Journal.

"Look alive, there!" crackled the mummy of Ptolemy II., as a party of explorers burst through the side of the pyramid. "No use," returned the mummy of Thothmes III., sadly; "they have us dead!"—New York Press.

She—"Why do you appear so pleasantly surprised?" He—"Because you appear so surprisingly pleasant." Old Gentleman—"And now I appear, unsurprised and unpleasant. Break away and take your corners."—Detroit Free Press.

"I was really surprised at Johnny. He came in and begged a quarter, saying that he wanted to go to the gallery to see the pictures." "You needn't be alarmed. He isn't getting Bostonian. It was the theater gallery he meant, and the pictures are alive."—Indianapolis Journal.

In the Park.

He—"That is a fine horse of Miss Rider's. She says she has ridden it ever since she was a little girl."

She—"Yes. It's wonderful how long horses retain their strength and vitality."—New York World.

The Sunday School.

LESSON 10, MARCH 7, 1897.

The Ethiopian Convert.

Golden Text: Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.—Acts 8:35.

(Acts 8:26-40. Memory verses :29-31.)

26. And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, arise and go toward the south, unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27. And he rose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship.

28. Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias, the prophet.

29. Then the spirit said unto Philip, go near and join thyself to this chariot.

30. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, understandest thou what thou readest?

31. And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

32. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth.

33. In his humiliation his judgment was taken away; and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

34. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

35. Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37. And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38. And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

39. And when they were come up out of the water, the spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, and the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

40. But Philip was found at Azotus; and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Cesarea.

Illustrative Applications.

Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza (v. 26). Sometimes God's calls are strange calls. From the multitude of rejoicing converts in Samaria, Philip is summoned to a lonely journey. He must have thought it very singular, but he obeyed. When you are sure of your duty, do it at all hazards, and leave results with God. Spell "duty" after the old fashion, and you get the real meaning of it,—d-u-e-ty. So duty is that which is due, that which one owes, that which one ought. And when you feel that ought, you are conscious of something imperial, and are to obey. And you are to obey, even though, as in Philip's case, duty points in strange direction. The consciousness of the ought is the end of controversy.

The same is desert. And yet the desert was the way and place of wonderful opportunity. When you seem to yourself to be set in a desert, do not despair. God can change the desert even into the harvesting-place of the best results. Any way, this flower blooms in the dreariest desert,—the flower of opportunity to show how a Christian should carry himself even in a desert.

And he arose and went: and behold, a man of Ethiopia (v. 27). Here is another illustration, of which the scripture is so full, of the beautiful juxtapositions of Providence. Philip pushes along even the desert way of what seems to him the way of duty, and, behold, the man from Ethiopia approaches. Such things happen now. Once, on a cold and snowy night, about midnight, I had the strongest impression that I ought to go then and see a gentleman for religious speech with him. I debated with myself a good deal about the lateness of the hour, the cold of the night, the almost certainty that he would be in bed, etc., but I went. And, ringing his door-bell, he opened the door, so troubled that he could not sleep, and so I struck the most propitious moment possible in which to preach Jesus to the man. He was so busy all the day through there was no chance for speech with him. But there, after midnight, he accepted the Christ in the wonderful opportunity thus given me for personal talk with him.

And the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot (v. 29). An angel first suggests to Philip his duty, then the Spirit reinforces and specializes it to this particular man. I have an impression as to duty in a certain direction, how far am I to accept and yield to such impression? How am I to be sure it is a right impression? I grant the question is difficult, but I think there are two main and safe tests. This is the first: The Spirit never urges us to that which is against the scripture. This is the second: The impressions of the Spirit usually come to us along the line of our usual service; for example, Philip's service was preaching. This suggestion came to him along that line, not athwart it. I have gotten help to myself by using these two tests.

And he besought Philip to come up and sit with him (v. 31). You will usually find that when, as Philip was, you are quickly obedient to duty, surrounded with difficulty as the duty itself may be, somehow God will level the difficulty before your feet. God changes the chariot into a pulpit for Philip. John and Charles Wesley were once walking along beside a high stone wall. "Brother John," said Charles, "if God should command you to jump over that high wall, what would you do?" Answered John Wesley, "Brother Charles, if God should command me to jump over that wall, any way I'd jump at it." I think that the true spirit.

For he went on his way rejoicing (v. 39). Of course he did. How could he help it? He is admirable illustration of the truth of that scripture. Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness—that is, to the one who holds himself in pure intent. Into such a soul the light of an increasing rejoicing will always pour itself. The law for getting more light is to use the light you already have. Precisely this treasurer of Queen Candace had been doing. As proselyte he had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and used that light; returning home he was studying the scripture, and used that light; accosted by Philip he courteously welcomed him, and used the light of Philip's companionship; to Philip's teaching of the scripture he gave earnest heed, and used that light; when Philip presented Jesus to him, he at once accepted Jesus, and used that light; at the first opportunity of confessing Christ in baptism he was ready, and used that light. And so using the light he had, he steadily passed into larger light, and his soul was flooded with joy. If we would be rejoicing Christians, I know no better example for us than this treasurer of Queen Candace. Use the light you have; do the next thing, so your soul fronts the sun, and into your soul the sun will shine.—Wayland Hoyt, D. D., in S. S. Times.

FOR COUGHS AND THROAT TROUBLES use Brown's Bronchial Troches. They relieve all throat irritations caused by Cold or use of the voice.

Where the Army Came In.

Distinguished Foreigner—"What is that large body of gaily bedizened cavalry?"

Aid—That's the commanding general and his staff."

D. F.—"And that fine body of soldierly men—what is that?"

Aid—"That's the regimental band."

D. F.—"And pray what is that measly handful of stragglers loitering along behind?"

Aid—"Why, that's the army."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The True Reason.

Wiggins—"What makes you look so glum, Biggins? Is your vacation over?"

Biggins—"No; I did not have a vacation, but my wife did and it is over."—Buffalo Courier.

The '97 Wheel.

First Manufacturer—"Any improvements on the '96 model?"

Second Manufacturer—"Improvements? I should say. I've got a device that makes the '96 model look dreadfully old-fashioned."—Truth.

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CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS.
Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists.
CONSUMPTION

AN OLD-FASHIONED BODICE

Of Soft Woollen Check With Linen Trimmings is a "Revival" Waist.

If there is one thing that strikes you more forcibly than another upon seeing the mid-winter goods, it is their quaintness. The soft little checks worn by grandmother are fashionable again. They are making the shawl dress, also, just as they did a generation ago.

Fancy a calling costume of plain black and white plaid wool, fitted tight to the waist and furnished with small side pockets for handkerchief and glove-buttoner. Fancy the sleeves loose to the hand. Fancy a stiff standing stock of white linen with a nun's collar of the same and a tiny smooth vest reaching to the belt. Fancy a delicate linen finish to the neatly gloved hands. Fancy all this and you will have the quaint dress worn calling last week by a woman whose styles are the latest in all the town. The skirt was a striped one of black and white silk and satin.

A WOOL CALLING GOWN.

Linen is worn a great deal with woollen dresses. The cuffs button upon a wristband and the collar has under fastenings. These linen trimmings are not too stiff, and are laid flat, like a nun's neat finery. With this woollen dress gloves of the finest wool were worn.

THIS GAME 22 YEARS OLD.

Two Devoted Pinochle Players' Long and Yet Unfinished Contest.

What poker is to the American card player, pinochle is to the German, although perhaps the game could be better compared to whist, says the Chicago Times-Herald. For, as in whist, there is no opportunity to bet except on points, and no opportunity to raise bets. At the same time the game is played very differently from whist, or any other game.

Pinochle languishes during the summer, when the German sits out doors in summer gardens, sipping beer. Only the most devoted of the game's votaries then play it, but with the advent of winter the pinochle season begins. During these months there are thousands of Germans who sit by the hour in some convenient spot and play the game, either in pairs or four-handed, and almost always where liquid refreshment can be obtained. The man who wanders into one of the small German saloons around town almost any day, can see a party of men deep in the mysteries of pinochle. Not a word is said unless it is necessary to claim points in the game.

There are pinochle players in Chicago for whom the game has so deep a fascination that they spend all their time in playing it. Usually a party of two or four will play together with regularity for long periods. There have been many cases where the same men have played pinochle against each other with unfailing regularity for a period of one, two or more years. Many have played with each other for an even longer period. Two of the best pinochle players in Chicago are August Schmidt and Carl Meyer. These two men have played pinochle against each other every day, Sundays included, for twenty-two years. They first met in a North side saloon on Nov. 3, 1874, and each became so delighted with the other that they have been antagonists ever since. Schmidt used to live on the west side, but four or five years ago he moved to the north side, so that he would not have so far to travel to reach the saloon where they always play. The game has lasted so long that it has ceased to attract any attention among the habitues of the saloon. But should one or the other fail to appear at the appointed time and take their stations at the table which has been set aside as theirs by right, it would create a bigger sensation than anything else that could be imagined.

A good deal of pinochle is played in that saloon, and it is very seldom that any other game is indulged in there. They tell a story of a party who entered and wanted to play poker. They called for a pack of cards and sat down to play. But with the very first hand there was trouble.

There were five in the party, and five hands were thrown around the board, and then the betting began. Never had the first hand dealt in a poker game been provocative of so much speculation. Everybody stayed, and all only took two cards. The betting was lively. Nobody seemed to mind the old gaming superstition that the winner of the first pot in a poker game is sure to quit loser at the end of the game. Each of them bet lively. The first man staked the limit at once, the second raised him, the next raised him, the dealer called, but the age raised.

And so it went for several rounds, until three of the players began calling each time, while the other two raised, and they were determined to stick. In course of time they ran out of chips and money, and the showdown came by universal consent. One hand showed four aces and a king, another had four kings and an ace, four jacks and a queen, a full house on queens, and another full on kings was exhibited. It looked for a while as if there would be a row. Each man believed that the others had tried some sharp practice, and when the words grew very high and the men were about ready to fight with one another the proprietor, noticing the threatened disturbance, intervened.

He was quickly informed of the cause. He glanced at the hands, and, knowing a little about poker himself, appreciated the cause of the trouble. He smiled broadly.

"I dinks mineself," he said, "dot you vos hold of got the pinochle pack already yet."

And so they had. The mystery was explained. They had a double pack of cards with eight of all the good cards in it.

Then they all turned on the proprietor and swore at him, at pinochle, and other things. But it did no good. They were compelled to divide the pot, and when the division was made they got up and quit, deciding to go somewhere else where less pinochle was played and there was no danger of a repetition of the occurrence.

HE HAD TO KEEP ON BANKING.

Quaint Anecdote Illustrative of Despotic Force of Habit.

A business man accustomed to hard work for many years usually finds idleness irksome, says the Chicago Times-Herald. Men who have been actively in the harness as a rule do not like to retire, although retirement in old age is the goal of the average worker. A successful Chicagoan who has reached 60 years said to me the other day: "I am going to quit. I have worked for thirty years without a week's vacation; now I am going to rest for thirty years. I have earned every dollar I possess; now I intend to spend money and stop worrying about accumulating it."

I applauded this determination and inquired how he intended to spend his leisure.

"I have bought a homestead in Blank," he said, naming a small Michigan town, "and I shall remove there with my family and simply wallow in idleness and contentment."

"But how will you pass your spare time?" I insisted.

"Well, I'll hunt and fish," he said.

"Good—but that will not keep you busy the year round," I ventured.

"No; but I shall read. I'll take all the papers. I will get together a little library, too."

"Will that occupy all your extra time?"

"Oh, I shall walk about a good deal, I dare say. Exercise—you know—great thing for an old man."

"Is that your entire programme?"

"N-no; not exactly," he said hesitatingly. "I'm going to organize a private bank down there and manage it."

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See you get Carter's.
Ask for Carter's.
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The only perfect
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Even if
Solicited to do so.
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MISCELLANEOUS.

SEEDS Complete Catalogue of Best Seeds that Grow FREE to any address. W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO., Philadelphia.

Wanted—An Idea Who can think of some simple thing to patent? Protect your ideas; they may bring you wealth. Write JOHN WEDDERBURN & CO., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., for their $1,800 prize offer and new list of one thousand inventions wanted.

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EARN A BICYCLE BY HELPING ADVERTISE US. Easy work. Sure reward. 600 New and Second-hand Wheels to close out. $5 to $15 each. Write for lists. G. R. Mead & Prentiss, Chicago, Ill.

$2.75 GENTS OR LADIES SIZE 14 KARAT GOLD PLATE. CUT THIS OUT and send it to us with your name and address and we will send you this beautiful gold finished watch, by express for examination. [illegible] THE NATIONAL MFG. & IMPORTING CO. [illegible] Dearborn St., Chicago.

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TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1897.

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TOLEDO BLADE CO.....**Publishers.**
ROBINSON LOCKE..........**Editor.**

THE BLADE is a weekly newspaper for intelligent American citizens. It aims to cover, each week, all news topics of real interest to all wide-awake and thinking men. Its editorial page is the strongest and most thoughtful of any in the United States. Its special departments are carefully edited, and the whole paper is intended for the homes of the free American people.

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CIRCULATION LAST WEEK: 130,000

TO THOSE WHOSE SUBSCRIPTIONS EXPIRE IN FEBRUARY.

We have recently mailed a special offer by postal card to all whose subscriptions expire in February. Those whose time expires this month, who have not received one of these cards, are requested to write us at once, notifying us of its failure to arrive, and a duplicate will be mailed. It is an offer each will find it to his interest to read and to accept. The Blade will be better than ever this year, and you can not afford to be without it.

CORN AND RAPE.

Let every farmer who reads The Blade turn to the fifth page and read our offers of Kaffir corn, Cuban Giant Ensilage corn, Early Mastodon corn, and Dwarf Essex rape. They are well worth your consideration.

Each variety is fully described in the advertisement, and a cut is given of Kaffir corn, which gives a good idea of its appearance, growing in the field.

It will be noted that we offer these seeds in connection with a year's subscription to the Weekly Blade, and also give an alternative offer to those whose subscriptions will not expire for some months yet, for the seed alone. It is cheaper, however, to take advantage of the offer in combination with a subscription. Your subscription will be extended for one year after the time to which you are now paid, and you will save money in the long run by taking that offer.

Don't fail also to note our offer of garden and flower seeds on the seventh page. Very many have already availed themselves of it, and many more are wise enough to do so.

THE BLADE BICYCLE.

Probably quite a number of readers of The Blade are thinking of purchasing bicycles this spring. If you are one of the number, wait for the announcement of the Blade bicycle. Every one who bought one of them last year was perfectly satisfied with his bargain. The Blade wheel for 1897 will have all the latest improvements, will be of the latest pattern, is a wheel that retails for $85 anywhere in the United States when bought by dealers, but which we will sell at a figure which will enable you to save almost half that amount. Our announcement will be printed in a few weeks. Wait for it, and save money!

KYLE'S RE-ELECTION.

The long struggle in the South Dakota legislature over the choice of an United States Senator was terminated by the re-election of Senator Kyle—and that in consequence of the Republican members voting for him. That they should support a Populist came as a surprise on the Republicans of the nation; but the mystery is solved by information which comes by way of Washington that it is the result of negotiations which had been in progress between Republican leaders and Mr. Kyle, by which he obtained the Republican support of the legislature of South Dakota, and in return he will co-operate with the Republicans of the United States Senate on the tariff bill.

While Mr. Kyle has been accounted a "Democratic Populist," he has not been extreme in his views and of late has indicated a disposition to co-operate with the Republicans on various questions, especially in regard to the tariff. He supported most of the features of the Wilson tariff bill when it was in the Senate, and this action was the cause of much of the opposition to him among members of his own party in South Dakota. There have been indications during the past year, however, that he was favorably disposed towards a protective tariff measure, and there is now every reason to believe that he will co-operate with the Republicans on the tariff question.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The annual report of the civil service commission—its thirteenth—gives the latest figures as to the extension of the classified lists in the civil service of the United States. These figures are of interest just now, when a new administration is going into power, and a vast number of the Republicans of the country think so highly of themselves that they expect to be provided with offices at the government's expense. Hence it is interesting to note how many places have been taken out of the reach of the spoilsmen.

There are 178,717 places of all sorts in the executive service, and of these 87,107, or nearly half, are beyond the reach of the partisan office seeker. Of the 91,610 remaining, 5,570 are excluded from the operation of the law of 1883 for various reasons, 4,815 more are also excluded because they are filled by appointment of the President and confirmation by the Senate, and 8,854 are outside the provisions of the statute because they are mere laborer's berths. This leaves no less than 72,371 as yet unclassified but not unclassifiable, and of this great number 66,725 are fourth-class postmastерships.

There are quite a number of people who are hoping that President McKinley will take a backward step by undoing some of the work of his predecessor. When Cleveland took office four years ago only 43,000 places had been brought within the classified service; now the number is 87,107. This brings the new administration face to face with this problem: More men wanting office than ever before, and a much smaller number of places wherewith to satisfy them.

Hence the disposition to urge Major McKinley to let down the bars and relegate back to the politicians many thousand positions which have been placed within the pale of the classified service. The indications are that this will not be done. He believes in fitness as an essential for office, rather than party loyalty; and every Republican in the nation, except those who desire office, is with him in this.

THE NEW CABINET.

President-elect McKinley has completed the personnel of his cabinet. The appointees and their portfolios are as follows:

Secretary of State—John Sherman, of Ohio.

Secretary of the Treasury—Lyman J. Gage, of Illinois.

Secretary of War—Russell A. Alger, of Michigan.

Attorney General—Joseph McKenna, of California.

Postmaster General—James A. Gary, of Maryland.

Secretary of the Navy—John D. Long, of Massachusetts.

Secretary of the Interior—J. J. McCook, of New York.

Secretary of Agriculture—James Wilson, of Iowa.

It is a strong cabinet. The men thus called to become the confidential advisers of the President all have special fitness for the duties assigned them. All are men of high standing in the states from which they are drawn, and those chosen for the more important and onerous positions are men of national reputation, in whom all intelligent Americans have full confidence.

The geographic selection is excellent. Sherman, Alger, Gage and Wilson are chosen from the great Middle West, the scene of the hottest fighting in the memorable campaign of 1896, and the arena in which national victory was won. McCook and Long represent the East—New England and the Middle States. Judge Gary represents the border states which have fallen into line with modern progress and the march of intelligence, while the great Pacific coast has a representative in Judge McKenna, of California.

No Republican in the nation need hesitate to give his allegiance to the new cabinet. This country has grown so great in population that there are thousands of men in political life in every state who are fitted by education, training and natural talents for any position of great responsibility and high trust in the nation; yet they are strangers to the millions of their fellow countrymen of other states and other sections of our widely extended domain. Hence there has been, ever since the days of Lincoln, a movement as of surprise when a new cabinet has been announced. Few men could say, in reading over the list, that they knew the standing and public services of every man named therein. The official unknown in one section would be well known in another; the man whose name was "familiar as household words" to every one in his own state, was deemed an unknown quantity by the inhabitants of states a thousand miles away.

Probably there will be more or less of this feeling in many sections of the country on perusing the roll of the new McKinley cabinet. Still the majority of its members are far better known than were the majority of Harrison's cabinet, or of either of those of Cleveland when they were announced. These gentlemen step now into the full light of national prominence, and we feel assured that they will prove, by their official course, the wisdom of President-elect McKinley in their selection.

WILL HE VETO IT?

The immigration bill having passed the Senate in the form it left the conference committee, it now becomes a question of great interest whether Cleveland will veto it. There is a feeling in political circles that he will do so, but this belief seems to be based on the fact that, in the Senate especially, the Republicans were the supporters of the bill. But four Republican Senators voted against it—Messrs. Hansbrough, Carter, Shoup and Hawley; while the general opposition to it in that body came from the Democrats, many of those who voted in the negative being Cleveland's close personal supporters.

The bill as passed excludes all persons physically capable and over 16 years of age who cannot read and write the English language or some other language. The test by which the officials are to determine whether the persons can read and write is by the use of slips containing not less than 20 words of the constitution of the United States, nor more than 25, one of which slips shall be drawn out at random from a box, containing the slips, so constructed as to conceal them; and the person receiving the slip must, in the presence of the officials, read and afterwards write out the words printed thereon. The immigrant may determine the language in which the tests of his ability to read and write shall be made.

The act omits from its provisions persons unable to read and write who are over 50 years of age and the parent or grandparent of a qualified immigrant over 21 years of age capable of supporting him or her; also such parents or grandparents as may be sent for to come and join the family of a child or grandchild over 21 years of age, similarly qualified and capable; also the wife or minor child, if not able to so read or write, may accompany or be sent for and come to join the husband or parent.

The bill also provides that it shall hereafter be unlawful for any male alien who has not in good faith made his declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States by land or water for the purpose of engaging in any mechanical trade or manual labor for wages or salary, returning from time to time to a foreign country. The intention of this is, of course, to especially exclude persons from coming in from Canada and Mexico, competing with the labor of citizens of the United States, and returning to their own countries with the money so earned.

It is made unlawful for any person, company or corporation to employ any alien coming into the United States in violation of this act—provided, however, that this shall not apply to the employment of sailors, deck hands, or railroad train hands, whose duties require them to pass over the boundary to reach the termini of their runs, or a boatman or guide on the rivers or lakes. None of the provisions of this act are to apply to persons arriving from Cuba during the continuance of the present disorders there, provided they have been inhabitants of that island.

The bill should become a law, and the President will but add to his unpopularity if he shall interpose his veto and thus compel the matter to lie over until the next Congress. The mass of intelligent Americans realize the dangerous character of much of the immigration of recent years, and desire that the bars shall be put up. There has been, within the past dozen years, a great change in the class of immigrants. In place of honest and steady Scandinavians and Germans, and people of other nationalities of the same general stock as the Americans, there has been a vast increase in the immigration from southern and east central Europe, of people whose civilization and standards differ radically from our own. They are not material which will assimilate readily, and many are grossly ignorant. This bill is a needed check on this class of immigrants, and it should become a law.

SENATOR HANNA.

Governor Bushnell has made a wise decision. By appointing Mr. Hanna he gives Ohio two giants of national reputation in the United States Senate.

All patriotic citizens are anxious to see McKinley's administration made a success. They want business. The past three years of depression have crippled many. They wish to discard their crutches.

A large majority in the most intelligent states last fall voted for the gold cure and against free trade vacuum pills. Ad valorem duties have also assisted to make the government receipts during the past seven months to run $43,800,000 behind the expenditures, which were also curtailed at the expense of needed improvements. Labor wants work and protection against low wages abroad. Farmers should get the $80,000,000 sent abroad for sugar last year. Under protection the country was prosperous. The people want it again with reciprocity as its progressive friend. They want the new administration to adopt such measures immediately. Any unnecessary delay would further imperil business. They want the strongest man possible made Senator to hasten the legislation. Mr. Hanna could do more than any other man in Ohio, President McKinley alone excepted.

Northern Ohio and the marine interests generally have special reasons to favor Mr. Hanna's selection. He is one of the largest vessel owners and builders on the lakes. He would take pride in helping to secure proper and needed appropriations to improve harbors and waterways. With Senator Foraker from Southern Ohio the entire states will be properly represented.

M. Hanna never sought office before. His sole ambition in late years has been to see his friend McKinley elected President. He always believed in a protective tariff. About twelve years ago he came to Toledo, organized the business men and showed them the importance of defeating Frank Hurd for Congress because he was the leading free trade apostle. His unselfish devotion to McKinley's interests is without a parallel in politics. Everybody concedes that the President-elect wants his "best man" made Senator.

There can be no question about Mr. Hanna being entitled to it. His management of the last campaign, both before and after the nomination, settles that.

The Republican party is on trial. If it fails to restore prosperity before 1900, the opposition will win, and may before. Many people are now restless. They forget what a narrow escape they had last fall from a terrible panic. They want relief from the present stagnation. They want a cancer of three years' growth removed before the new doctor takes charge of the patient. It will take more than a mind cure to remove it. In the meantime petty prejudices should be cast aside and all Republicans should try to promote prosperity.

Some Democrats say Hanna should not be selected because he is rich. Is this a crime? He made his money honestly. He did not steal it, nor did he inherit it. The country needs the services of successful business men. It needs men of action, not all-day talkers. Some demagogues try to prejudice labor against him. They give only bad advice, while Mr. Hanna directly employs thousands in the enterprises in which his capital is invested. The Chicago Tribune of a week ago gave five columns of interviews with Ohio Republican editors. All but half a dozen were for Mr. Hanna. Political bosses can not successfully stem the popular tide. George Cox, of Cincinnati, saw that. Harmony prevails. Let all patriotic citizens stop grunting and try to promote prosperity

SUGAR AND COFFEE.

A committee of the New York legislature, headed by Senator Lexow, is investigating the trusts which do business in that state, and the developments are interesting. The testimony of the officials of the Sugar Trust leads to the conclusion that the refineries it controls represent an actual investment of $10,000,000, capitalized at $75,000,000, and yielding, within the past ten years, the enormous total of $236,000,000 in dividends.

Similar testimony on the part of the Arbuckles develops that their firm, run by trust methods, controls about one-fourth of the coffee business of the entire country, and that they are able, by combination with several other leading establishments, to keep coffee at a figure which yields a very large profit—much larger than in any business open to free competition. In both these cases, the trust methods are applied to crush out competition, and tie up dealers who handle competing goods by making it practically impossible for them to do business except on the terms set by the trust.

What course the New York legislature proposes to take in the case of these and other combines, is not clear. No feasible way has been suggested whereby that body can force them to sell at lower prices; nor does it appear possible to legislate out of existence the combinations between manufacturers in the same line by which the prices are controlled. Nor is there any relief open at the hands of Congress. Coffee is on the free list; sugar was there under the McKinley tariff, but the trust pursued the even tenor of its way. Foreign competition does not seem effective in overcoming these powerful combinations.

It seems to us that the most which can be hoped for is that the revelations as to the enormous profits in these two lines will stimulate idle capital to enter into competition. If the statements are true that the sugar trust is making 150 per cent and the coffee combine 30 to 50 per cent profit, it would seem that outside capital would soon organize and enter on these inviting fields. The history of such combinations in the past has been that organized efforts to force prices above their natural level prove transitory in the presence of the speedy competition of idle capital seeking profitable employment. The natural laws of trade are more effective than those upon the statute books.

When President-elect McKinley was a soldier he promised a colored man, named James T. Cheney, in a joke, to give him an office, should he ever become President. The major has notified Cheney that the position of doorkeeper of the White House, worth $1,000 salary and $2,000 in tips, a year, will be given him. And Cheney's smile is so broadly generous that it is visible on the back of his neck.

Dubois, of Idaho, defeated for re-election to the Senate, asserts that he will be heard from in 1900. We agree to that, if he will only keep still until then.

The Great Powers want the peace of Europe, and Greece merely wants a piece of territory. The indications are that Greece will get what she wants.

Greece is showing the world that the soul of Marco Bozzaris is marching on.

ABOUT APPROPRIATIONS.

The Democrats are raising a howl over the size of the appropriations made by the present Congress and charge that it is extravagance on the part of the Republican House in which all appropriation bills originate.

It is probable that the total appropriations made by this Congress will exceed that of any previous Congress. But there are reasons for this which Democrats are careful not to give but which explain fully and satisfactorily the cause of the large amount needed. The natural growth of running expenses is heavy. The population of the United States is increasing at the rate of a million and a half a year, and there is a necessity for increased expenditures.

Then, too, the present Congress has been compelled to take care of a large Democratic Congress. It is a matter of history that when a Democratic Congress is about to be succeeded by a Republican body the Democratic House always cuts down the appropriations in order to make the expenses of the outgoing Congress as light as possible and to put upon the incoming Republican body as large a debt as extravagant Democrats can pile up. The records of Congress for the past twenty years prove this to be true.

The deficiency bills which the Republican Forty-seventh Congress was compelled to pass to meet the deficiencies left over by the Democratic Forty-sixth Congress amounted to $27,706,857. The Fifty-first Congress had a Republican House, and when it came into power it found the same condition and was compelled to pass deficiency bills, to meet the deficit left over by the Fiftieth (Democratic) Congress, amounting to $34,137,737. The Fifty-fourth Congress (Republican), when it came in, found another heavy deficit left over from the Democratic Congress, amounting to $13,900,106, and was compelled to shoulder it. In these three Republican Congresses, the deficiencies which have been thus forced upon the Republican party by the Democratic Congresses which have preceded them amount to $75,744,700.

It is by such methods that the Democratic leaders are able to charge "extravagant appropriations" upon Republican Congresses. The amount of the deficiency bill in the present Congress is $8,428,937.

Again, the interest charges are ten millions a year more than when Mr. Cleveland came into office four years ago, and this goes to swell the aggregate.

It is the purpose of the present Congress not to leave to its successor a heavy deficiency, such as is usually done by an out-going body. It proposes to arrange for the payment of the obligations it incurred, and not hamper the new Congress.

These are, briefly the facts in the case, and explain the heavy appropriations and make ridiculous the cry of extravagance as raised by the Democratic party.

THE SENATE COMMITTEES.

The political complexion of the Senate leads to a great deal of speculation as to the make-up of the committees of that body, when it organizes after March 4. It is usual for the Senate to meet immediately after the inauguration, to confirm the new Cabinet and other appointees, and that will be the course pursued in this instance; and it is pretty well understood that an extra session will be called, probably on March 15. So, while it would not be necessary to have committees appointed merely to consider nominations, this will need to be done when the extra session is convened.

Under the rules of the Senate, the committes which are created at the beginning of a Congress continue to exist to the end of that Congress, but no longer. Although the Senate is a "continuous body," the existence of the committees ends at the end of a Congress, and although the Senate will continue to exist after March 4, it will be without committee until it creates them. While committees are appointed in the House by the presiding officer thereof, the Senate creates its committees by an entirely different process. Their personnel is determined by members of the parties composing the Senate.

Each party holds a caucus and appoints a caucus committee, whose duty it is to determine the membership of the committees. The party having the largest number of votes in the Senate is expected to fill a majority of the places upon each committee, and in most cases to name from its own ranks the chairman of each. While the Republicans will not have in the next Senate a clear majority, they will have an unquestioned plurality, and the disposition seems to be to allow them to organize the committees.

Senator Gorman, who is usually looked to as the political leader on his side of the chamber, indicated in the Senate only a few days ago that since Republicans would have in the next Senate a larger number of members than either the Democrats or Populists, and since they would be in control of the House and Presidency, that there would be no disposition so far as he was concerned or so far as he could speak for his party to interfere with their general control of legislation. On the contrary, the disposition would be to place squarely upon them the responsibility for legislation.

With these public assurances from a leading Democrat, the Republicans are not anticipating any serious trouble over the formation of committees generally. The one about which they feel the greatest anxiety, however, is the finance committee. At present it is composed of six Republicans, six Democrats and one Populist—Senator Jones, of Nevada. Two of the members of that committee retire, Senators Sherman and Voorhees, and it will be desirable that the Republicans shall have a clear majority upon it in the next Congress, if they are to be held responsible, as they desire to be, for financial legislation. It is understood that the Republican caucus committee on organization will place seven Republicans on the finance committee, giving perhaps five of the remaining places to the Democrats and one to a Populist.

It would be, of course, within the power of the Populists and Democrats, should they combine their forces, to prevent the Republicans organizing committees; but this course is not anticipated. Indeed it is believed that should an issue arise over the organization of the finance committee, at least two of the gold Democrats in the Senate would vote with the Republicans, since the issue would be clearly a financial one, and thus divide the Senate upon the lines which separated parties in the late campaign.

The new tariff bill should be passed as as to go into effect with the beginning of the next fiscal year—on July 1. The work of tariff revision will not disturb business, for it will not be aiming a blow at the conditions of prosperity, as did the debates on the Wilson bill.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE.

The trade situation is decidedly improving. The activity in iron and steel is extending to other lines. Capital is no longer timid and distrustful, but confident, and at the command of any legitimate business enterprise. The only thing which still remains is individual distrust. Business men have just passed through three and a half years of depression; they have struggled as they never did before to make headway, only to meet with failure and disappointment. They have, for the time, lost their self-confidence—that strong faith in themselves, in the soundness of their judgment, the wisdom of their plans, and it will take some time for this to be restored. As Horace Greeley said once upon a time, "The way to resume is to resume." So, at the present juncture, the good times are here, so soon as the business men have courage to strike out boldly and utilize the new conditions.

Henry Clews, in his Saturday circular, thus sums up the situation:

> There can now be no question that the general business of the country is at last steadily drifting into a healthy activity. The tonnage returns of the railroads, eastward and westward, show a very satisfactory increase; and the same tendency appears in current reports of railroad earnings, which contrast favorably with those of January. With trifling exceptions, rates of freight are stable, which, together with the extremely low prices of railroad supplies, should be favorable to the net earnings.
>
> The merchandise markets show a very marked improvement. The commercial hotels are full of buyers from all sections of the country, and it is doubtful if the interior trade was ever before so fully represented in this city. Within the last nine days, no less than thirteen hundred dry goods buyers arrived here. The woolen goods trade shows a distinct recovery, and mills that have been closed for months are resuming work. A similar recovery is apparent in nearly all other kinds of merchandise. The interior buyers are discriminating and careful, but the aggregate of their purchases is making a satisfactory impression upon stocks of goods.
>
> There are nowhere any indications of a speculative demand for merchandise, but a fair, conservative business is realized in the trades generally, and prices are steady. The breaking-up of the Steel Rails association has resulted in sales variously estimated at from 1,000,000 to 1,100,000 tons, the price having settled down to $18 to $20, according to location of market. This release of the rail market will set in operation a large amount of business which has been stagnant for many months.
>
> From the winter wheat sections the accounts are still favorable, the thick snow blanket having preserved the plant in good condition, and the prospects being almost uniformly hopeful for the crop.

The stock market showed no important changes for the past week. There was a good deal of selling, partly because the professional operators have become tired of the dead level in prices, and partly because the condition of the foreign markets—due to the Cretan war scare—produced an unsettled feeling on this side of the Atlantic.

The most noteworthy single element in the trade statistics of the last week is the enormous export movement in corn. The shipments of this cereal in the opening week of January—4,819,261 bushels—was the largest on record until last week, but the record is now broken by the extraordinary outward movement of 6,441,420 bushels. It is to be noticed that this enormous export movement in corn, though it has been accompanied by a moderate advance in price since January, is made at low figures compred with other years. This is, however, simply a recognition that the immense supply on hand, derived from two harvests of utterly unprecedented volume, requires large concessions in the average price to find a market. Unwillingness to recognize this commercial axiom, in grain and many other commodities, was one cause of the trade congestion during recent years. Its final recognition, in such years as 1878 and 1896, was reflected in a return of commercial equilibrium.

THE CRETAN SITUATION.

On Sunday, the war vessels of the Powers lying off Canea opened fire on the Cretan camp, and shelled the revolutionists from their position.

The admirals of the allied fleet also issued a statement to Col. Vassos, who is at the head of the first detachment of Greek troops sent to Crete, that they will land marines and attack his troops if he dares to advance into the interior of the island.

The Hellenes are wild for war. A mighty demonstration of 40,000 Greeks was made at Athens, which adopted an address declaring that the king and the people of Greece are ready for any sacrifice of blood and treasure to bring the present Cretan policy to a successful issue. The address was publicly presented to the King, amid the wildest enthusiasm.

Greece would be mad to defy the Powers single-handed. Utter defeat would be the inevitable result. But it has been the belief that some powerful backer stands in the background, ready to come to her support should the other powers refuse to acquiesce in her absorption of Crete.

This secret ally, if there be one, can be none other than Russia. The world waits with bated breath for tidings from the capital on the banks of the Neva. Will the mighty empire of the North at last decree the destruction of Turkey through a general European war, or will she still continue her slow policy of waiting, while pushing her subtle designs through the minor states of Eastern Europe?

All England is talking over the audacious reply given by Cecil Rhodes to a question by the investigating committee as to what right he had to send troops to the Transvaal frontier. He answered: "I have very probably done wrong, but there is another movement now which has much support, namely the incursion of the Greeks. That's wrong, too, no doubt." But audacity will not avail him entirely, though it deepens the impression that he has a trump card to play, in the shape of a letter written by the German emperor to the Transvaal government before the Jameson raid.

Chicago has taken a step which is expected to make New York turn green with envy. Lady Aberdeen, wife of the Governor General of Canada, will be the orator of the day at the commencement exercises of the University of Chicago in April next. This is said to be the first time such an honor has been conferred upon a woman. Lady Aberdeen is noted both as an effective public speaker and an earnest philanthropist; and in her case the honor is well bestowed.

Ex-Senator Edumnds, who has a good deal of experience in Congressional life, is of the opinion that the silver men can not be counted upon to help pass a tariff bill. But Senator Thurston says that he personally knows there are votes enough in the Senate to pass it. Mr. Edmunds will please not worry.

Here's a chance for Ohio's warlike Coxey; let him enlist under the Greek flag.

When it comes to selecting good cabinet material Major McKinley has a true eye.

Thos. Slater's offer on page 3 is a beacon of hope to all men.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK.

The event of last week—and one of the events of the year—has been the action of the Greek government in determining to occupy the island of Crete. This determination was evinced in a striking way by the firing by a Greek cruiser upon a Turkish transport, by the announcement of the Greek minister of foreign affairs to the protest of the European powers that Greece accepted the responsibility for all its acts, and by the issue of a proclamation by the commander of her forces upon Cretan soil. To say that the incident has been dramatic in the extreme is speaking conservatively. Whether Greece has been assured of the support of any of the powers remains to be seen. It appears that Germany proposed the coercion of the little kingdom, but that the proposal was rejected by Lord Salisbury on the ground that such action would not be supported by the British nation. The people of Greece appear to be bent on war, if necessary, to prevent the longer continuance of Turkish domination in the island, and the materials for a conflict, the end of which cannot readily be foreseen, seem to be at hand. The situation will require careful handling to prevent it from bringing up for solution the long-postponed Eastern question.

In the intervals of its examination into the affairs of the American Sugar Refining Company the New York senate committee delved into some other aggregations of capital, notably the rubber trust and the wall paper trust. Very much the same kind of testimony was elicited as was evoked by the inquiry into the sugar combination's affairs. For example, Mr. Charles R. Flint, who was the representative of the Rubber Company, was asked why, with mills on its hands which it could not utilize to more than 50 per cent of their capacity, it acquired additional mills at a cost of $12,000,000. The managers of the company, Mr. Flint said, did so with the idea that a larger centralization of the business of manufacturing and larger economy in the cost of production was possible. In other words, the company wanted to reap the benefits that came from the concentration of capital. He had also to explain to the committee that there is often a difference between the value of a company's property and the amount of its actual stock, instancing, as an illustration, the case of the Chemical Bank, whose shares sell for over forty times their original value. Mr. Flint gave the committee a great deal of information about the business, particularly the branch of it within his special knowledge, but the information was not always what the committee seemed to want.

Of special interest was his testimony in relation to the effect of large combinations upon the export trade. In times of depression such as we have lately been having, he said, the export trade has taken a large amount of goods, so that the company has been able to keep its factories running. If it had not been for this extra market so produced it would have had to close them. The export business has been tremendously increased—in fact, it has been made possible by these great manufacturing organizations. They have been able to compete with the pauper labor of the densely-populated countries of the world. With the utilization of labor-saving machinery articles have been produced as cheaply as they could be produced in these other countries. But with the utilization of labor-saving machinery there has been no reduction in the number of laborers employed.

The cheapening has been in the greater capacity of production, and to-day, Mr. Flint said, the American wage earners are enabled to sustain their high rate of wages owing to the existence of these superior organizations represented by centralized capital, it having been suggested by one of the members of the committee that the introduction of labor-saving machinery did not really decrease the demand for American workingmen. Through the large production, the centralization of manufacturing and the like, due wholly to the combination of capital, the company, he said, has been enabled to pay the American workingmen American wages, and at the same time to compete with the cheap labor of Japan and Asia and the countries in Europe. Labor-saving machinery, he said, does the drudgery; the drudgery is what is done by the pauper laborer of the old countries.

Regarding the National Wall Paper company, the president testified that it was organized so as to make a saving in the expenses of management by consolidating the companies, and, where advisable, transferring machinery. The only effect produced on production was that it was cheapened. He told the committee that the first step taken by the company after its organization was to reduce the price of its product 10 per cent. The price of the product was at present, he said, from 20 to 25 per cent less to the consumer than it was before the formation of the company. The value of raw material had gone down in some branches about 10 per cent, but has increased in other directions. Wages, on the other hand, have not been reduced. The employes got the same wages, but they have a more certain employment. Before the company was formed the factories in the wall paper trade were open about six or seven months in the year, but now, under an agreement with the workingmen, they are all kept open about eleven months in the year.

Judging from indications at Albany, there will be few commercial or industrial concerns of any magnitude which will escape the probe of the latest investigating committee in the state. A resolution has been introduced in the Senate which recites that complaint has been made that the large department stores in the cities in that state are gradually crushing out the smaller stores, by uniting in one establishment nearly every kind of business, and are consequently ruining the smaller merchants; that the retail trade is thus being concentrated in the hands of large capitalists, who are enabled to sell certain lines of merchandise under cost, and that the tendency of these practices is to deprive persons of employment and to reduce the salary of those employed in said department stores, and provides that the committee appointed to investigate the manner in which these department stores are conducted.

Some very sensible remarks bearing on the present investigation of the trusts were made by Abram S. Hewitt, New York, at a conference of charitable societies. If, he said, the struggle with poverty, which is as old as the race, is intensified by new industrial conditions, these conditions also make the necessaries of life more accessible and more plentiful. We are richer and better off in 1897 than we were in 1893, have more the things we need to eat and to wear, and more men, on the whole, have got them. Some have not, and this is our problem. Some think it can be solved by legislation. It cannot. Natural laws work out the solution in the end, when the grievance becomes great enough. We are but hindering where we think to help sometimes. We have, he said, a Lexow committee hunting corporations, ostensibly trying to find a legislative cure-all. What it is doing is to try to find out who makes some money in business, and to prevent it if it can. That is not going to help; neither is making work for the unemployed by municipal effort. That will only attract swarms from all over the country. The more work you make the more will come, and the bigger your problem will grow. This is very sensible advice, and it comes from a man who has had the experience not only of a business man, but of a legislator and of an administrator, and whose experience has not been confined to a single state, nor to a few years of service.

The treaty of general arbitration between Great Britain and the United States will not be ratified at this session of Congress. That result was made tolerably clear at the session of the Senate Friday, at which Senator Sherman sought in vain to bring the members to a vote. There were surprises in the discussion, some senators who had been counted against the treaty speaking for it and attributing their change to consideration for Senator Sherman and the fact that the amendments proposed by the foreign affairs committee had removed most of the objections. Others, however, refused to be convinced that the document embodies the quintessence of wisdom and were disposed to think that, if the state department could take years to formulate such a treaty, the senate ought not to be expected to ratify it without mature consideration. Some wanted a vote taken at this session so they might vote against it; others wanted the vote postponed to the special session so that newly-elected senators might be added to the number of the treaty's friends. There were many views and wishes, but the composite result of all was that further consideration of the treaty was deferred, probably until the new administration has come into power.

The report that Gomez has slipped in between Weyler and Havana must be true, as even the officially supervised Havana dispatches admit that the rebel general "has placed a force back of Weyler, much to the latter's discomfiture." Gomez says he is going to press the Spanish a little.

A Word for the Weekly.

Kendall Co. Record, Yorkville, Ill.:—The Toledo Weekly Blade for February 4 is very handsome and much more readable than ever. It is printed from new type on a new perfecting press and is a beau ideal of a good family weekly.

Near Perfection.

Newspaperdom:—The Toledo Blade, with its new dress and its new presses, is as near perfection as art can make it.

CO-OPERATIVE LIVING.

How It Is Successfully Done Down Near Boston.

Many times have co-operative schemes of living been tried, but they have invariably failed. There is a community a half-mile from Boston, called Brookline, where the co-operative scheme has been brought to perfection, all because the manager, as he says, "knew when to stop."

"The minute you encroach upon the personal liberty of people," said Mr. Knapp, the manager, "then your scheme is ruined." The interesting part of this enterprise is that it was started a few years ago by Mr. Knapp, who counted his money by millions, solely as a fad. He bought a large tract of land, divided it into terraces, and on them built groups of houses, which were costly affairs, 48 in number, dreams of architectural beauty, clustered around a central club-house. Since then he has lost his fortune, and makes his living managing Beaconsfield terrace, as the place is called.

Living is expensive there. There has been no attempt at co-operative cooking, and each residence has its own cooks and maids, but if a valet or maid is wanting, one can be hired to come once a week and oversee the wardrobe. Each house is furnished with steam heat from a little building at the end of the village, at the rate of from $17 to $35 a month. There is never any fuss over furnace fires and coal for the residences of the terrace. A man is engaged at $2 a week per house to clean sidewalks, shovel snow, polish outside brasses, etc. A little wagon delivers daily packages from Boston and takes bundles from the terrace to other points. A big stable supplies all kinds of carriages cheaper than livery stable rates and accommodates the private vehicles of wealthy residents. A florist shop supplies fresh flowers, and all these supply stations are connected with each house by call bells. A telegraph office is in the manager's room. A handsome terrace drag takes parties into town instead of a rattling trolley car.

When a woman fortunate enough to live in the terrace wants to give a tea or party, she does not tear up her own home, but rents the handsome Casino for $10 and its very pretty rooms serve the purpose immensely well. A kindergarten for the children is held in the Casino mornings, but the rest of the day, when it is not privately rented, it is a free clubhouse to the village. There is a large playground for the children and a big tennis court.

As a co-operative scheme for the wealthy residents of Beaconsfield terrace the scheme is a great success, but brought down to a more economical basis men of affairs are doubtful as to its efficiency.

Lots of Fun.

"Do you really enjoy shooting?"

"Why, yes, of course," said the dear girl, who had lately bought a light rifle and a lovely pair of hunting bloomers. "Every time I manage to kill a rabbit or a poor little bird I have just the loveliest cry imaginable."—Indianapolis Journal.

JAMES A. GARY, OF MARYLAND.

POSTMASTER GENERAL IN M'KINLEY'S CABINET.

Something of the Man Who Will Sit

James A. Gary is the recognized leader of the Republican party in Maryland. He is a business man of wealth, a manufacturer, and he has never hesitated to give effort and money to the cause of the Republican party. He did more than any other man to keep Republicanism alive during many gloomy years, and was at length rewarded by seeing his party carry the state for McKinley. He has been a McKinley champion ever since the death of Mr. Blaine, to whom he was loyally devoted.

The Maryland Republicans here are delighted at this recognition of their state and of the border country between north and south which gave McKinley 26 electoral votes.

Judge James A. Gary is one of the most distinguished Republicans in Maryland. His family came originally from Massachusetts, and the judge cannot be said, therefore, to be a Southern man. In politics he was a whig and placed Henry Clay before him as his ideal of a statesman. He was an abolitionist by instinct, and he was one of the three delegates from Howard county to the big union convention of 1861, which was held at the Maryland Institute. After the war the Republicans were very scarce in Maryland, but Mr. Gary was true to his convictions. He was a delegate to the convention of 1872 that nominated Grant, and he was the chairman of the Maryland delegation. Since that time he has served his party with unfailing ardor and has sat in many conventions, state and national, as the representative of the Republicans of the old state. He takes a keen interest in municipal politics. He is a banker, a business man and one of the most polished gentlemen of Maryland.

Now that the cabinet is complete there is considerable comment not only upon the personnel of the members of the household, but upon the admirable geographical distribution of its membership. The states recognized are Ohio, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Iowa, Michigan, Maryland, California, every one a Republican state. The Pacific coast gets a cabinet office for the first time in many years, and the growth of Republicanism in the South is recognized in the selection of Mr. Gary.

It is well known here that President-elect McKinley sincerely wished to have Mr. Hanna in the cabinet, and that he repeatedly urged the national chairman to accept the postmaster generalship or some other post congenial to him. Mr. Hanna steadily declined. The postmaster generalship was held open for Mr. Hanna till the last moment.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Brazil has at present 3,000,000 acres of coffee.

The ashes of burnt cork make a good black paint.

There are 5,323 libraries in the United States.

The Library of Congress is the largest in the country.

The Texas house has passed a bill prohibiting Sunday baseball.

A child just born has less chance of living a year than an octogenarian.

M. Deibler, the veteran executioner of Paris, has beheaded over 200 persons.

Atchison county, Mo., has corn laid up in its cribs for 10 years to come.

The romantic gondolas of Venice are being rapidly displaced by little steamboats.

Over 1,250,000 acres of the earth's surface are devoted to the cultivation of tobacco.

Philadelphia consumed 1,666,734 barrels of beer in 1896, an increase of 177,030 over 1895.

Physicians are very plentiful in South Africa, and are chiefly Scotch and Germans.

A 15-pound codfish recently examined was found to have a roe containing 4,822,000 eggs.

Fully one-third of the land in Great Britain is owned by members of the house of lords.

Every transatlantic trip of the larger of the ocean liners costs from $15,000 to $20,000.

In Mexico the bananas that are considered best by many are only about two inches long.

The most thickly populated country in Europe is Belgium, and it is also the most temperate.

Caterpillars from six inches to a foot long are common in the vicinity of the Darling river, Australia.

Within the last 20 years the number of sea vessels annually entering the harbor of Hamburg has doubled.

After a debate continued for three days the Montana house rejected an initiative and referendum bill, 41 to 27.

Some of the Chinese think that women who wear short hair will be transformed into men in the future world.

Deafness is more common in cold countries than in warm climates, the ear being very sensitive to atmospheric changes.

Over 4,000,000,000 cigarettes were smoked in America during the last year, an increase over the record for 1895 of 323,687,340.

According to the report of the adjutant general, there are more than 10,000,000 men available for military duty in the United States.

The stamp law is very thoroughly enforced in Mexico. Every form of commercial paper, from check to contract, contributes to the revenue.

It is said that the Indian library of the British India office, which is now being catalogued, will be, when finished, the most complete of Oriental literature in the world.

A young Bohemian physician in Vienna, Dr. Fakula, has discovered a means of curing short-sightedness by a simple operation, which meets the approval of the university authorities.

Francis Murphy says that more than 7,000 persons have signed the temperance pledge since he began his crusade in Boston four weeks ago. Persuasion seems to be more effective than prohibition.

In India there are 100,000 boys and 627,000 girls under the age of 14 who are legally married, while 8,000 boys and 24,000 girls who have not attained the age of 4 are under marriage bonds as arranged by their parents.

In the Dominion of Canada women have municipal suffrage in every province and also in the northwest territories. In Ontario they vote for all elective offices except in the election of members of the legislature and Parliament.

A tree was recently cut by A. B. Shaw, on Trout Run, Clarion county, which measured 90 feet in length, 5 feet across the butt and 28 inches across the top where it was broken in the fall or it would have measured 100 feet in length.

One of the London theatres is now heated by electricity. The first cost of the plant is not less than that of any other heating system, but the running expenses are very low, amounting to only 16 shillings a day. The danger of fire is also considerably lessened.

Some differences of opinion, even in the religious world, exist regarding the work of the evangelists in Boston. Zion's Herald (Methodist) thinks they are "doing general and permanent harm," but Bishop Lawrence, of the Episcopal church, says they are doing great good.

The Churchman reports that the daughter of the principal notary of Piacenza, Italy, was found to have in her stomach an accumulation of medals of a Madonna locally reputed for powers of cure in cancer. She had swallowed a medal each day for a week, on advice of her confessor.

Scandinavia wants to secure peace in case of a European war by having its neutrality guaranteed by the powers, as is the case with Belgium and Switzerland. Resolutions asking for this will be submitted in the Norwegian Storthing, the Swedish Riksdag, and the Danish Folkething.

A product called "wire glass," which it is asserted, presents an effective barrier against fire, consists simply of a mesh-work of wire embedded in a glass plate. Even when licked by flames and raised to a red heat, it does not fall to pieces, and it not only resists the heat of fire, but also the shattering effects of cold water poured over it while it is yet glowing hot.

Good morning. Have you read Thos. Slater's offer for men on page 3?

Publishers' Column.

WALTHAM AND ELGIN WATCHES.

Some months ago, after supplying our readers several thousand good watches at wholesale prices, we discontinued the offer. For a few weeks we shall offer the following small list much below our former prices, owing to reduction of certain grades by the manufacturer. A couple will be recognized as standard watches of our former list. The others are good grades at reduced prices.

OFFER NO. 8.—BLADE SPECIAL.

Open Face or Hunting Case, Waltham or Elgin Works—Be Sure to Name Your Choice When You Order.

A $200 solid gold watch cannot be bought for $20, but the Weekly Blade offers a watch under the above number which has all the appearances and most of the good qualities of a $200 watch. Time and money have been spent in bringing this particular watch to perfection. The movement (or works) contains 15 jewels, compensation balance, safety pinion, patent regulator, and all improvements. The case is the thinnest filled watch case ever made. Remember, we mean that the watch when closed in the pocket is thin. The lids of the case are the usual thickness and form a perfect protection for the movement. The case is made of a plate of fine composition metal, over which two heavy sheets of 14k. gold are drawn, making a case that is for all purposes as good as gold, and warranted for 20 years. Every part which is subjected to constant wear, such as the ring, thumb piece, joint plugs, hinges, etc., is of solid gold. The works are especially recommended where the most accurate time is required. This is just the watch for doctors, lawyers, clergymen, county committeemen, and all others who wish a really first-class article. As a present it cannot be excelled. It is so thin and convenient in form that it will even make a good and satisfactory ladies' watch, and it is especially recommended to school teachers and other professional women on account of its accuracy, which is equalled by no watch made especially for ladies.

We will send this watch, open face or hunting case, as desired, by registered mail to any of our subscribers for $20.

No. 833.

No. 833 is one of the finest gentlemen's watches we have ever offered. The movements, either Waltham or Elgin, are full jeweled, and are guaranteed perfect timekeepers. The case is of the finest gold-filled, and guaranteed to wear the same as solid gold for 15 years. The price of this watch in open face is $13.50, and in hunting case, $16.50.

Lady's Watches, Waltham or Elgin, $20.00.

No. 15.—The works are manufactured at Waltham or Elgin. They are made of the finest materials, carefully selected. The jewels are all cut and polished in Europe, where secret processes are handed down from generation to generation. The dial is made of the finest porcelain, and the hands of blue tempered steel. The case is solid 14k. United States assay, handsomely engraved. This watch is a stem winder and setter and hunting case. We will send this watch, delivery guaranteed, for $20.

Lady's Watches, Waltham or Elgin, $15.00.

No. 16.—The works of No. 16 are the same as No. 15, but the case is gold filled, 14k., guaranteed to wear just like solid gold for 20 years. The joints, plugs and parts exposed to unusual wear are solid gold. It is hunting case, and is handsomely engraved. Sent by registered mail, delivery guaranteed, for $15.

Gentlemen's Watches.

No. 200.—Solid gold 40 dwt. hunting case with Elgin or Waltham works, 18 size, 14 karat, and guaranteed timekeeper, sent by registered mail to any part of the United States for $33.50.

No. 201.—Gold filled Elgin or Waltham watch, 18 size, open face case, guaranteed for 15 years. The movement or works contain seven jewels. This watch will be sent to any subscriber of The Blade in perfect order, delivery guaranteed, for $10.

Address all orders:

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Toledo, Ohio.

FAMOUS BATTLE PICTURES.

These pictures are of a high grade, chromo colors, large size (22x28), reproduced from the original oil paintings with wonderful accuracy. We propose to give one picture free, postpaid by mail, to every person sending us $1 for the Weekly Blade one year. If your time expires soon, you can obtain a picture when you renew. If your time expires some time hence, and you want a picture now, send a dollar, and let us extend your time a year ahead from date of expiration. Or, get us a new subscriber and we will enter the new name for Blade one year, and send the picture to the remitter, if so directed. However, we are confident those who obtain one picture, will want several more, or perhaps all of them. You can obtain them one at a time by sending us new dollar subscribers. Try one of them when you renew.

NOTICE, however, that the above offer is only to those who send us $1 for subscription or renewal after this date.

Here is the list; make your selection from it:

Battle of Gettysburg, Pa.
Battle of Shiloh, Tenn.
Battle of Five Forks, Va.
Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tenn.
Battle of The Wilderness, Va.
Battle of Fort Donelson, Tenn.
Battle of Champion Hill, Miss.
Battle of Antietam, Md.
Battle of Atlanta, Ga.
Battle of Spottsylvania, Va.
Battle of Vicksburg, Miss.
Battle of Chattanooga, Tenn.
Battle of Cold Harbor, Va.
Battle of Resaca, Ga.
Battle of Lookout Mountain, Tenn
Battle of Olustee, Fla.
Battle of Fredericksburg, Va.
Battle of Bunker Hill.
Battle of Tippecanoe.
Battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac.
Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark.
Battle of Bull's Run, Va.
Battle of Chancellorsville, Va.
Battle of Big Horn (Custer's Last Charge).
Battle of Chickamauga, Ga.
Storming of Fort Wagner, S. C.
Capture of Fort Fisher, N. C.
Battle of New Orleans, La.
Battle of Cedar Creek, Va.
Capture and death of Sitting Bull.
Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, Ga.
Battle of Stone River, Tenn.
Assault on Fort Sanders, Tenn.
Battle of Franklin, Tenn.
Battle of Nashville, Tenn.
Battle of Corinth, Miss.
Perry's Victory on Lake Erie.
Fort Pillow Massacre, Tenn.
Battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo.
Battle of Williamsburg, Va.
Fall of Petersburg, Va.
Battle of Opequan or Winchester, Va.

We also add a half dozen celebrated foreign battle pictures:

Battle of Gravelotte.
Battle of Mars-La-Tour.
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THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

NICKEL SILVER TABLE WARE.

It is Better Than Plated Stuff and Saves Much Worry.

We are now enabled to offer to subscribers of The Blade (and to subscribers only, remember,) teaspoons, dessert spoons, tablespoons and forks, made of composition known as nickel silver, which so closely resembles solid silver that an expert might be deceived. It is indestructible, does not tarnish so easily as solid silver from exposure to the air, and it is finished in the same manner as the solid silver goods. The patterns are no thicker than solid silver.

Prices.

They are sent by registered mail, postpaid, at the following prices:

1 dozen teaspoons	$1.25
½ dozen teaspoons	.85
1 dozen tablespoons or forks	2.35
½ dozen tablespoons or forks	1.35
1 dozen dessert spoons or forks	2.00
½ dozen dessert spoons or forks	1.15
½ dozen table knives	2.25
1 dozen table knives	4.25

These are made in only the one pattern. They are sent by express. There can be no variation from these offers. Only subscribers to The Blade can buy at these prices, but they can buy as much as they like.

CHAMBERS' ENCYCLOPAEDIA

And the Weekly Blade One Year for Three Dollars.

The original edition of this sold at $30 per set. A reprint of the Edinburgh and London edition, with additions upon topics of special interest to American readers, and giving American statistics of population down to and including the census of 1890.

This great Encyclopaedia contains thousands upon thousands of articles, embracing all subjects within the limits of human knowledge in its more than 27,000 specially prepared articles, giving pointed, practical, explicit and most interesting and instructive information both for the student and the general reader, free from ambiguous technicalities.

This is a new edition, revised in 1891, reset in clear but fine type. It comprises THIRTY small, compact volumes in paper covers, and the 30 books will weigh about 13 pounds.

READ OUR OFFER!

We will send a full set of this edition of Chambers' Encyclopaedia, comprising 30 volumes, and a copy of the Weekly Blade one year for THREE DOLLARS.

Or, we will send the Encyclopaedia alone for $2.50.

The Encyclopaedia will be sent by mail, postage paid. Address

THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

WHAT IS PROPER.

The proper kind of handkerchief to have is of very fine linen, just simply hemstitched and with your initials hand embroidered in one corner.

The proper kind of napery to have is pure white, with the border running all around. They are invariably hand-hemmed and hand-embroidered initials are put across one corner just inside the border, smaller-sized letters to match being used for the napkins. The polka-dot is the pattern to have this year, the dot in the table-cloth being about a quarter of an inch in diameter, and the one for the napkin about half the size.

The proper kind of a wedding-ring is quite narrow, but heavy and thick through.

The proper kind of a shoe this winter has the "bull-dog" toe. Calf-skin laced ones for walking and street wear, patent leather buttoned ones with kid uppers—never cloth—for church, teas or dressier out-door wear, and the Duchess slipper or light-colored Oxfords for house wear. In-door shoes have no tips, out-door ones have straight tips; the pointed tip is passe.

The proper kind of a glove to wear is a heavy dog-skin one like a man's for your tailor-made gown or shopping, while glace four-buttoned kid ones stitched with black for other fancier day-time occasions, and white or light-colored suede mousquetaire for evening wear.

The proper kind of a coiffure is a figure eight, either low or half high, accompanied with a parted front taken back loosely and pushed forward toward the face. To soften the effect long side combs are put in with the teeth toward the front.

The proper kind of a center piece is round with a scallop and an inch and a half fringe outside this. The designs are almost exclusively flowers in wreath effects and bow-knots. The ribbon twining is quite out of date.

The proper kind of a side-comb to have is at least four inches long, curved, and of unormented tortoise shell. Some handsome ones have very beautiful borders of open work on the upper edge, all cut from the one piece of shell. Silver, gold and bejeweled ones became so common from their tawdry imitations they soon were dropped by refined women.

The proper kind of a photograph frame is a hand-embroidered linen one, but mounted under glass this year. This is fastened on with white water-color paper, with the edge running over the glass about half an inch on the back; it doesn't matter—just enough to give it a hold. It is a particular thing to do neatly, but if you are careful you can manage it. If not, any picture dealer will do it for from 50 cents to $1.50. It saves both the frame and photograph from being soiled.

The proper kind of carpet to have is a Wilton for hall and parlor, plain center with a border for a parlor; while matting and a rug are almost always found in dining-room, sitting room and library.

IT CANNOT BE.

It cannot be that He who made
This wondrous world for our delight,
Designed that all its charms should fade
And pass forever from our sight;
That all shall wither and decay,
And know on earth no life but this,
With only one finite survey
Of all its beauty and its bliss.

It cannot be that all the years
Of toil and care and grief we live,
Shall find no recompense but tears,
No sweet return that earth can give;
That all that leads us to aspire
And struggle onward to achieve,
With every unattained desire
Was given only to deceive.

It cannot be that after all
The mighty conquests of the mind,
Our thoughts shall pass beyond recall
And leave no record here behind;
That all our dreams of love and fame,
And hopes that time has swept away,
All that enthralled this mortal frame,
Shall not return some other day.

It cannot be that all the ties
Of kindred souls and loving hearts
Are broken when this body dies,
And the immortal mind departs;
That no serener light shall break
At last upon our mortal eyes,
To guide us as our footsteps make
The pilgrimage to Paradise.

—David Banks Sickels in the New York Sun.

POINTS ON FAMILIARITY.

Residents Are Strangers Frequently to Their Own City.

"How long have you been in Rome?" said Pope Pius IX.

"Three weeks," was the ready answer.

"Ah, then," said His Holiness, "you have seen Rome. And how long have you been here?" asked he, turning to the second visitor.

"Three months," was the answer.

"You, then," continued the Pope, "have begun to see Rome. And you, sir," turning finally to the third of his visitors, "how long have you been here?"

"Three years," was the reply.

"Then you," said the Pope, "have not begun to see Rome."—San Francisco Argonaut.

Young men or old should not fail to read Thos. Slater's offer on page 8.

Why He Dared.

She—I think I might love you more if you were not so extravagant.

He—It's my extravagant nature that makes me love you so.—Life.

Fifty Years Ago.

Grandfather's hat! And within it you see,
Grandfather's favorite cough remedy.
Whether 'twas Asthma, Bronchitis or Croup,
Or baby at night waked the house with a whoop,
With Ayer's Cherry Pectoral Gran'ther was sure
That no cold or cough would e'er fail of a cure.
In hats the styles change, but the records will show
Coughs are cured as they were 50 years ago.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral has no equal as a remedy for coughs, colds, and lung diseases. Where other soothing elixirs palliate, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral heals. It is not a cheap cough syrup, which soothes but does not strengthen; it is a physician's cough remedy, and it cures. It is put up in large bottles, only, for household use. It was awarded the medal at the World's Fair of ninety-three. It has a record of

50 Years of Cures.

OF A SCIENTIFIC NATURE.

Statistics of life insurance companies show that in the last twenty-five years the average's woman's life has increased from about 42 to 56 years, or more than eight per cent. In the same period man's life on the average has increased in length five per cent.

Remarkable reports are current about a new kind of steel invented by Maxim at his experimental laboratory in Maine. The inventor believes it identical with the ancient steel of India, which is alleged to have been far superior to any steel made in these later days. It is said that a small blade of the new steel cuts a piece of glass as though it were chalk.

The Bertillon scheme of identification is being resorted to in the case of persons other than criminals. A large number of men in business that takes them away from home have voluntarily undergone the Bertillon ordeal, so that in case of sudden death away from home their families may have positive means of identifying their bodies, which might be disfigured.

In a paper lately read before the French Society of Civil Engineers an interesting report of some experiments with pneumatic tire and ordinary wheels was made. The first experiment was made when there were two inches of snow on the ground, also when the snow was melting, and when the ground was muddy. Other tests were made in pulls of varying speed over macadam, paved and ordinary roads. In all of these the pneumatic-tire wheel showed a saving in pulling power of from 30 to 50 per cent.

It is stated that in Western Australia there is in operation a process of extracting gold from ore by which every particle of the gold is saved. Gold quartz is crushed into small lumps and is then put into a closed chamber, subjected to the heat of a furnace, to the action of water and hydrogen gas. This takes out the sulphur and reduces all oxides to a metallic state. After being heated the material is cooled by sudden jets of water. This operation is repeated till the quartz crumbles to powder at a touch of the finger. Then it is thrown into a tank and the gold separated by washing.

Dr. Ranke, of the German Anthropological Society, recently undertook to describe the physical characteristics of the earliest men as ascertained from an examination of prehistoric graves. They were of a yellowish color, he says, and had coarse hair. Their heads were peculiarly shaped, the part of the skull that contains the brain being large relatively to the face. The doctor believes the first men originated in Asia.

NOTES ABOUT WOMEN.

A woman's neck is one of the most important details of her appearance. The prevailing fashion of an imitation of the old stock, with its small turnover collar, affords a charming relief on the blouse. Those in spotted silks look most daintily chic.

To be clothed in luxury is the latest extravagance for society canine pets. The height of all that is most smart is to coat our "wee doggies" with the same material as that donned by their mistresses.

Shops at the present moment are a terrible snare of fascination. Seductive sales are in full swing, and dear to the heart of all womankind is the contemplation of a bargain, even in trifles.

Our ribbons still remain of brilliant hues, with just that gentle sobering effect of an edge of black. Striped ribbons are greatly worn.

Everything has its day! Just now the delicate turquois, which has reigned so long, is to be superseded by the humbler pink coral. It will require some maneuvering of resuscitation, as it has been put on the shelf a considerable time. And, out of sight is out of mind, even with a stone.—Philadelphia Record.

JOHN J. M'COOK, OF NEW YORK.

HE WILL BE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

ABOUT CRETE.

The island of Crete lies to the south of the Greek mainland, stretching east and west, like Cuba, lying at the foot of the peninsula of Florida. Crete is about 160 miles long and from six to thirty-six miles broad.

Civilization in Crete is older than history, older than the Trojan war. According to Homer, Minos, the mythical king of Crete, ruled the hundred cities of the island with such rare skill and justice that he was appointed to judge the dead, while his brother, Rhadamanthus, ruled the plains of Elysium. King Minos had a navy and subdued the pirates of the Egean. Crete was a dwelling place of the gods, and Jupiter is said to have been nourished in a cave on Mount Ida, which rises in the mountain ridge running through the island, to the height of 7,674 feet.

Some generations after Minos ceased to rule, royalty was abolished and each of the cities became an independent republic, the two most important, however, exercising a sort of supremacy over the others. Later under the Dorians, the island was governed by a Senate, the members of which were appointed from certain families, and a popular assembly which had little power. Then the aristocracy was overthrown and a true Democratic government was established and, perhaps singularly, there was with the rise of the people a decadence of morals which led the poet Epimenides and the Apostle Paul to describe the people as "always liars, evil beasts," etc. The island was conquored by Metellus about 66 B. C. and became a Roman province. The island was conquored by the Saracens in 823, but they were driven out in 959. In 1204 Crete was sold to the Venetians by Pope Boniface.

After the Turks swarmed over the Eastern provinces of the Byzantine empire and captured Byzantium in 1453, Crete still remained free. In 1645 the Turks attempted the conquest of the island by a siege of Canea, now the center of interest in the conflict to overthrow Turkish power. For twenty-four years, or until 1669, the brave Greek mountaineers held out against the Turk. The Turks were robbers of the East who camped in Europe and thrived by disarming subject peoples and ruling them with the sword. Since the Turkish occupation the history of Crete has been a history of insurrections and massacres. The Greek spirit language has been retained throughout the island.

In the Greek war of independence, begun in 1821, Crete fairly won freedom, but the great and cowardly powers were unwilling to make Greece too powerful or despoil the Sultan to much, and Crete was left under Turkish rule. There is now living in the island a Greek patriarch and military leader, Costa Veloudakes, who fought in the war for liberation in 1821.

Turkish rule has been that of the despotic tax-gatherer, who exacts tribute by force of arms. Often have the people risen, only to be put down by the Turkish sword or the interference of the powers. There was a great uprising in 1866, and when the Russo-Turkish war was raging the Cretans again sought liberty. When the congress of Berlin assembled in 1878 to rob Russia of the fruits of her victory and destroy the treaty of San Stefano, the case of Crete and her demand for reforms were presented to the powers and urged by the aged General Veloudakes. On that occasion the powers compelled the Turk to take definite action and yield to the Cretans a constitutional government with an elective assembly. The Turk and the Cretans agreed on the terms at Halepa, a suburb of Canea, in 1878.

Under the terms of this treaty the spirit of liberty grew, the men of Crete learned what freedom was in their own assembly. In 1889 the Turk became alarmed at the extent of the demands by the Cretan assembly and suddenly abolished it and resumed the old system of arbitrary rule through a Turkish governor. Last year there was an uprising against the growing assumptions of the governor, and the powers again stepped in and caused another futile compromise under the name of reform.

The sultan agreed to appoint a Christian governor, as there are only 73,234 Mohammedans in the island, while the Christians of the Greek church number 279,165. In the appointment of the governor the sultan was cunning; he named Prince George Berovitch, an Albanian Roman Catholic, and sent him to be a figurehead without real authority or support from the troops or Turkish officials. This is the style of the sultan's reforms. Prince Berovitch was obliged to seek refuge with the Greek consul at Canea a short time ago, after tendering his resignation to the sultan. He is now on board a Greek warship at Canea.

If the powers do not again make fools of themselves, Crete will soon be free. The enthusiastic people of Greece will furnish the arms and the men, if necessary, to end the long and brutal rule of the Turkish robbers. Little Greece, glorious in history, has not forgotten her past.

A PEN PORTRAIT.

Hair whose gold was deftly spun
By viewless spindles of the sun,

Eyes whose silken fringes seem
The curtains of a fairy's dream.

On mischief bent, yet half demure—
The home of thoughts and fancies pure.

Where heavenly lights have equal sway
In union of the blue and gray.

Words whose sweetness cannot wane
From lips like rosebuds after rain,

A heart whose softly rhythmic beat
Is timed to all things true and sweet.

—William H. Hayne, in Leslie's Weekly.

PINE TREE PRODUCTS.

The sawmill follows in the wake of the turpentine gatherer.

The cones of certain species of pine are sometimes eaten as food.

A kiln to afford 100 barrels of tar should burn about eight or nine days.

The inner bark of the pine tree is in certain sections of the country made into rope.

The yellow pine is one of the most valuable woods in the country, and is used largely for shipbuilding and house timber.

The yellow pine tree often attains a height of seventy feet and upward, though rarely more than two feet in diameter.

An essential oil obtained by distillation of the leaves or needles has medicinal virtues attributed to it by some German practitioners.

In Kamschatka the inner bark of the pine is macerated in water, then pounded and made into a kind of substitute for bread, without any admixture of flour.

Immense quantities of "pitch pine" grown in the southern states are exported to Great Britain and the West Indies. It is very durable and polishes well.

The "loblolly" pine of the backwoodsman grows on the southern "pine barrens." It grows eighty or ninety feet high, sometimes having a girth of six or eight feet.

There is a species of pine tree which grows in California, and known as the giant pine, or sugar pine, which is the largest of the pine genus, often rising to a height of 200 feet, with a trunk twenty to thirty feet in girth.

A Difficult Role.

Stage Manager—Look here, my boy, this will never do. Whoever saw a corpse look like you do? Try and throw some life into your part.—Judy.

Hood's Pills

Stimulate the stomach, rouse the liver, cure biliousness, headache, dizziness, constipation, etc. Do not gripe. Easy to take, easy to operate. 25c. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

HON. MARCUS A. HANNA.

WILL SUCCEED JOHN SHERMAN IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

Hon. M. A. Hanna will be sixty years of age next September, having been born on the 24th day of that month in the year 1837, at New Lisbon. Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Hanna's birthplace was in Columbiana county, he may be considered a product of the city of Cleveland, as his father, the late Leonard Hanna, removed to this city when his son was a lad of fifteen years. Mr. Hanna, the father, established a wholesale grocery store in the city, and his son attended the schools of the city.

After leaving the High school he attended Western Reserve college and in 1857, at the age of twenty years, began his career in commercial circles. That career has been a busy one ever since. Mr. Hanna started in business as a clerk in his father's store at a salary of $25 a month. He was steadily promoted, as he was an ernest worker, and finally became a salesman and as such did some traveling for the firm. He remained with the firm until 1867, when the business was sold, and during the following year he organized the Buckeye Oil works. In 1868 he became interested in vessels. Since then the Hanna fleet has become one of the largest on the great lakes.

The iron and coal industries interested Mr. Hanna early in his business career, and he associated himself with the firm of Rhodes & Co. In 1885 that firm was dissolved, and was succeeded by the firm of M. A. Hanna & Co., the operations of which are among the most extensive of any iron and coal firm in the state. To enumerate the business enterprises in which Mr. Hanna is interested would require much time and space.

Mr. Hanna married in September, 1864, Miss Augusta Rhodes, daughter of the late Daniel P. Rhodes, one of the pioneer vessel owners and iron and coal dealers of the city. From the union thus formed three children were born: Daniel R. Hanna, who is associated with his father in business, and who lives on Euclid avenue; Miss Mabel Hanna, and Miss Ruth Hanna.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanna and their two daughters live in a mansion on Lake avenue, overlooking Lake Erie. Although the structure is a comparatively new one many distinguished guests have been entertained there, among them being governors of states and United States senators, who have come to Cleveland to confer with Mr. Hanna on political questions. The hospitality of Mrs. Hanna has contributed in no small degree in increasing the fame of her distinguished husband, and when her husband takes his seat in the United States senate she will undoubtedly become one of the leaders of society at the national capital.

AS THE SUN GOES DOWN.

The lonely old people, of what do they think,
Of evenings red when the sun goes down?
As softly, white hair, as a hand from the brink
Of the unseen realms tender winds lift you
And kiss you like friends that are always true,
No matter if Destiny love you or frown.
From chairs where they sit in the warm summer air,
It is easy, I know, for their old eyes to reach
And rest the dim sight on the heavenly beach,
As to turn to the past over gray wastes where
There were beauty and youth and fame's sought crown—
As the sun goes down.

Ah, the wonderful change that behind them sweeps,
Of evenings red when the sun goes down!
Their childhood, and mother, and motherly songs,
Ere Hope sat bounden in Failure's hard thongs;
And manhood untried with its yearning's leaps;
And age that forgets there was ever renown!
Then looking ahead, there's a view that falls—
A glint of white sails on a faraway shore,
The blooms on fair faces that fade no more,
And the petals of roses that hang o'er the walls,
Extending their flush to the world old and brown—
As the sun goes down.

—Will T. Hale, in Nashville American.

MYSTERY SOLVED.

Dr. Robert Hunter Discovers a Cure for Consumption.

The Cincinnati Enquirer, January 3, says that Dr. Robert Hunter, of New York, the famous lung specialist, has succeeded in solving the difficult problem of curing consumption by the discovery of an antiseptic fluid, which destroys the germ of tuberculosis in the tubes and cells of the lungs. This fluid he diffuses in medicated air chambers into which the patient goes several times daily, breathing the medicated air in a natural manner for twenty minutes at a time. So great has been its success that a grand Sanitarium, having 300 rooms, and named "Hunterston," after its venerable founder, has just been established to aid in meeting the immense demand for treatment, which is also being extensively applied to patients in their own homes. Indeed, most of the wonderful cures reported were effected by it in that way. However, for those who are able, it is much better to go to the Sanitarium, where patients get not only the best effect of the treatment, but the valuable additional aid of personal supervision.

Hunterston, with its marble halls and magnificent rooms, is a veritable palace. It is thoroughly equipped and appointed, and its luxury and comfort are specially conducive to the needs of its patients. Its dedication to the pneumatic cure of lung diseases will be cheering news to the afflicted, and marks the beginning of a new era in the progress of medical science.

Pamphlets, containing full description of the Hunter method of treating all lung diseases, can be had by addressing Dr. Robert Hunter, 117 West Forty-fifth street, New York. For descriptive literature of "Hunterston," address Hunterston Sanitarium, Netherwood, N. J.

THE CIRCLE COUNTY.

A Queerly-Shaped Division Down in Middle Tennessee.

The oddest shaped county among the 3,000 which go to make up the separate divisions of the various states is Warren county, Tenn. It lies almost exactly in the geographical center of the state mentioned and is about as near a perfect circle as any division of land could possibly be. The circle would be perfect but for the fact that there is a short stretch of the northern boundary line which follows a small stream for a short distance. It is bounded by Cannon, De Kalb, Coffee, Grundy, Van Buren and White counties and is in no way remarkable except in shape.—St. Louis Republic.

That Boston Culture.

"Hortensia," said her father, "will you have some taters?"

"If you refer to the farinaceous tubers which pertain to the solanum tuberosum, and which are commonly known as potatoes," replied the sweet girl, "I should be pleased to be helped to a modicum of the same. But taters? taters? I'm quite sure, papa, that they are something of which I never before had the pleasure of hearing."

The old man pounded on the table until the pepper caster lay down for a rest, and then remarked in a voice of icy coldness:

"Hortensia, will you have some of the spuds?"

"Yes, dad."

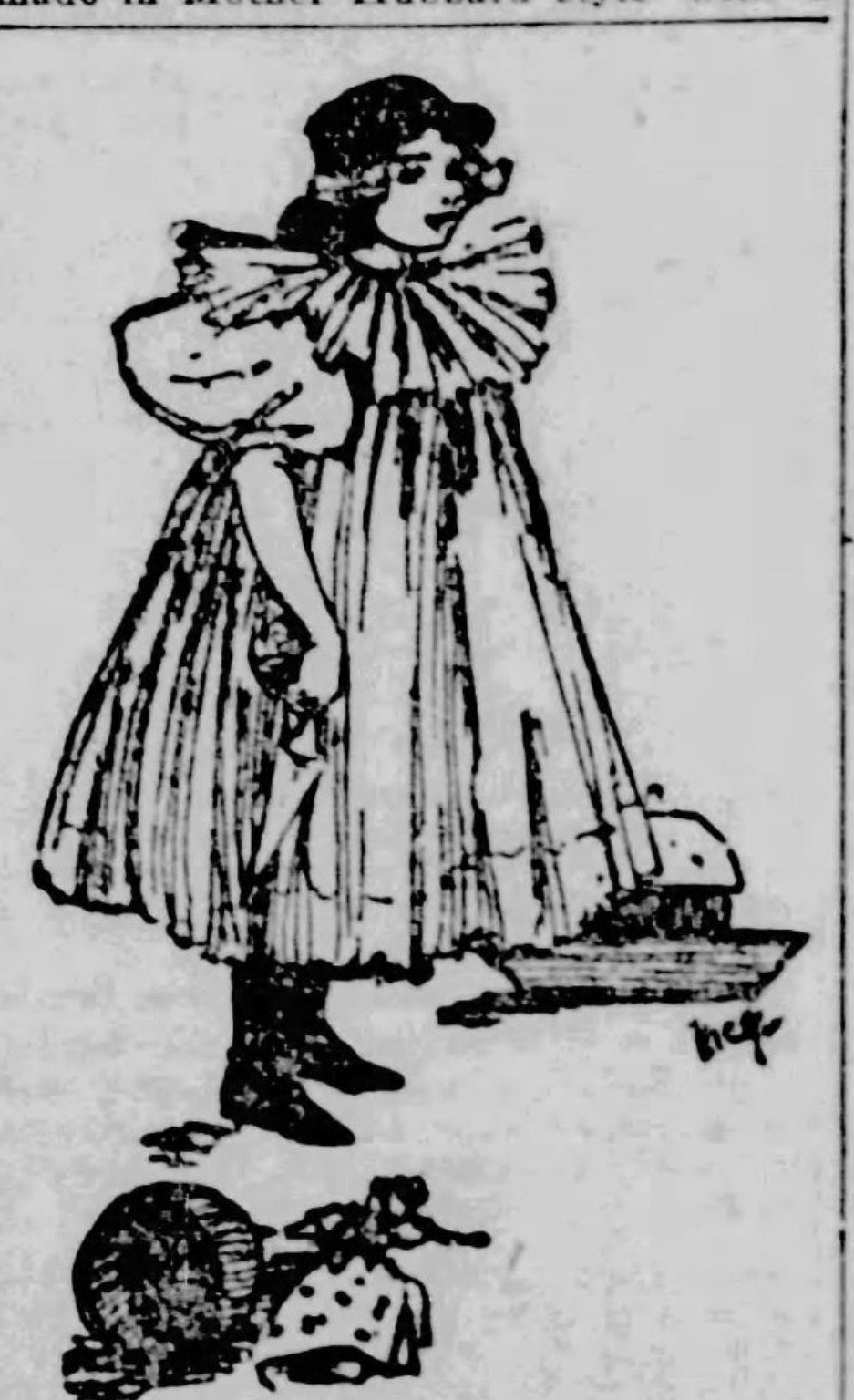
Is our boasted high school system a failure or is it not?—Boston Post.

CHILD'S FROCK.

Suitable for Little Parties, Though Made Simple and Inexpensive.

Little gowns for children's parties are more simple than ever and of cheaper goods.

A little dress suitable for a child's party is of thin white lawn, accordion plaited, over colored silkoline. It is made in Mother Hubbard style with a short yoke. The yoke is covered by a deep ruche of lawn which is fastened to the neck upon a band of rose ribbon. The sleeves are short puffs, reaching not quite to the elbow.



CHILD'S AFTERNOON FROCK.

A child's hair should always be very simply dressed. The hair is parted in the middle and tied on either side over the ears with ribbon to match the gown. This little toilette is suitable for all festive occasions, and while very pretty, is not too elegant. There is news that the delicate cheese-cloths are again coming in, and striped ones are promised.

WILL SELL "WOODLEY."

President Cleveland to Get Rid of His Country Place at Washington.

President Cleveland's country place, just on the outskirts of the city, will be placed on the market for sale soon after March 4, and will probably bring a higher figure than was paid for it three years ago, although real estate in Washington has made little advance in that time. Mr. Cleveland paid $30,000 for the house and grounds, and since then has expended some money on improvements, which may bring the price of the place to $50,000. It is not so pretentious as the country residence occupied by the President when in Washington during his first term, and which he sold at a profit of $100,000, but is better located and nearer the city. Suburban residents who passed it in the afternoons two years ago frequently saw three or four policemen standing around the gates, and any one approaching not known to them was ordered to proceed without loitering. Those were the days when the president was advised by Mr. Thurber that he was not surrounded with proper guards, and was urged to have the force at the White House increased. This was done and twice as many police officers are on duty there now as watched over the president's household during Gen. Harrison's administration. Mr. Cleveland has not visited his country place for a long time, but the few weeks spent there last spring necessitated a guard of four police officers, two of whom were on duty at all hours. The sale of the president's property will probably produce a lively competition among real estate brokers who want the job of selling the place.—Washington dispatch to the New York Sun.

Sons and fathers, read Thos. Slater's offer on page 8.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR SUBSCRIBERS

TO SECURE SEED STOCK OF VALUABLE

FARM SEEDS

ILLUSTRATION OF KAFFIR CORN.

A PROPOSITION:

All thinking, intelligent farmers of the present time will acknowledge that a change of seed from the proper source is not only a true principle but an absolute necessity in successful farming, and that new, desirable introductions in seeds are something every farmer should give a trial. The Northwest is famous for its farm products, and we have this season obtained from large seed growers in that section a number of different varieties, in order that our subscribers may secure seed stock at the very lowest cost.

KAFFIR CORN.

A valuable fodder plant for all sections. Yields heavily even on poorest soils.

Description.—Kaffir corn will do well in any part of the United States where corn can be grown successfully, and will thrive in dry seasons where field corn will fail entirely. It is a non-saccahrine Sorghum that produces an enormous amount of forage and fodder, and can be grown at a less expense than almost any other food for stock.

The heads contain small white seeds which make excellent flour, they are greedily eaten by horses and cattle, and also make splendid food for poultry, fed either in the grain, or ground and cooked.

The foliage and stalks make the finest forage or fodder, so that there is not a particle of waste in the entire plant. For the best results sow in rows about three feet apart, using from three to four pounds of seed to the acre.

The most valuable features of this new forage and fodder plant are its ability to withstand either damp or dry weather, its immense yields and adaptability to all parts of this country, with the exception of the extreme North, where only the hardiest and earliest variety of corn will succeed.

For $1.10 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 2 lbs. of Kaffir Corn, postpaid.

For $1.35 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 3½ lbs. of Kaffir Corn, postpaid.

Or, 2 lbs. alone, postpaid, 70 cents; 3½ lbs. alone, 90 cents, to actual subscribers to the Weekly Blade.

CUBAN GIANT

ENSILAGE CORN.

Unequaled in yield and unsurpassed in quality.

The introducer, a grower of large experience, says: "The grains are pure white and very large, broad and long, and very showy, and of stronger vitality than any variety in cultivation, a very strong point in its favor. The fodder grows on the stalks in great quantities and of the finest flavor. It is the best milk producer of all the field ensilage corns, being almost as sweet and tender as sugar corn. It will out-yield the Red Cob Ensilage corn, and is much more valuable because some 10 or 12 days earlier. An Ohio farmer writes that it is the most perfect ensilage corn he has found in 17 years' experience in farming, and he had tested every known variety that he could obtain.

For $1.20 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 3 lbs. of Cuban Giant Ensilage Corn, postpaid. Three pounds of Cuban Giant Ensilage Corn alone to a subscriber for 65 cents, postpaid.

THE NEW

DWARF ESSEX RAPE.

The best forage plant for the sheep growers.

It is highly recommended by Prof. Shaw, of the Minnesota Experimental Station, and many other leading authorities on stock feeding. It has yielded ten tons of green forage per acre, and has twice the feeding value of green clover. Sheep, swine, cattle and poultry eat it readily, but it is particularly desirable for sheep on account of its fattening qualities. Rape will do well in almost any soil, but gives best results on corn land.

Prof. Shaw says: "On 54 acres of rape, after winter rye had been removed, 537 sheep and lambs were fattened thereon, and 11 steers fed for 59 days. The lowest average gain on lambs fed on rape alone was seven to eight pounds per month." Sow it broadcast at the rate of three pounds to an acre.

For $1.30 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 3 lbs. of Dwarf Essex Rape, postpaid. Three pounds of Dwarf Essex Rape alone to subscribers for 75 cents, postpaid.

THE FAMOUS FIELD CORN

EARLY MASTODON.

The wonder of the corn world.

Since its introduction more seed of this variety has been sold than any sort ever introduced, and more bushels of it are now used by the seed trade in filling orders than any other variety of field corn. This in itself is a great recommendation for the merit of the Mastodon Corn. The Mastodon Corn has the longest grains and largest ears of any 100-day corn in cultivation, and will out-yield any corn in the world. In the celebrated American Agriculturist corn contest it far out-yielded every other yellow corn in America. Alfred Rose, of Yates county, New York, grew on one acre 15,898 lbs. of ears, or 213 bushels of shelled corn, and George Cartner, Pawnee county, Nebraska, grew from one acre 11,880 lbs. of ears, or 171 bushels of shelled corn. The largest yield of corn ever known in Ohio was a field of Mastodon grown on the Sage farm in 1894. We can produce any amount of testimonials from reliable farmers of yields of over 100 bushels shelled corn per acre. It is the strongest grower and largest yielding field corn in cultivation. It husks easy for so large a corn and shells easy and has the longest grains of any kind we know of. Any one wishing proof of the above yield can obtain same by writing Alfred Rose, of Penn Yan, Yates county, N. Y. Over 1,000 grains have been counted on one cob. Ears average 9 to 11 and 12 inches long, 20 to 36 rows on the cobs, many stalks bearing three to five large ears, some ears weighing two pounds each, and the most handsome shape ever seen. We offer you a carefully selected stock of this valuable corn.

For $1.20 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 3 lbs. of Early Mastodon Corn, postpaid. For 3 lbs. alone, 60 cents, postpaid.

For $1.70 we will send THE WEEKLLY BLADE one year and one bushel of Early Mastodon Corn, or one bushel alone, without The Blade, $1.45. At this price we supply the corn and sacks, and you will have to pay freight charges from St. Paul to your nearest railroad station.

Address all orders:

The Blade,
TOLEDO, OHIO.

SIX MILLION PEOPLE voted for Hon. W. J. Bryan. His only book, "The First Battle," is now ready. Agents making from $35.00 to $150.00 per week; the greatest seller of the age; send for outfit quick. Beware of fraudulent books. W. B. Conkey Company, Publishers, Chicago.

SYMPATHY.

We are as harps that vibrate to a touch
From a stranger hands, unconscious of the strings,
While the soul's slumbering echoes wake to life
And through its halls responsive music rings.

Few are the Davids to these harps of ours!
Few learn the cunning of the instrument;
And those to whom the gift has been denied
Are oftenest those with whom our lives are spent.

But God's large gift of Love is showered around.
Let us be thankful. Earth were too like Heaven,
If, with the power of loving deep and long,
That other gift of sympathy were given.

—Hamilton Aïdé.

Boiled Eggs by Hymn.

The Baltimore Herald tells a good story of Bishop Paret (Episcopal) of that city. Some time ago he was the guest of an Episcopal family in West Virginia. Learning from the bishop that he liked hard-boiled eggs for breakfast, his hostess went to the kitchen to boil them herself. While so engaged she began to sing the first stanza of the hymn "Rock of Ages." Then she sung the second stanza, the bishop, who was in the dining room joining in. When it was finished there was silence, and the bishop remarked:

"Why not sing the third verse?"

"The third verse?" replied the lady, as she came into the dining room carrying the steaming eggs; "Oh, that's not necessary."

"I don't understand," replied Bishop Paret.

"Oh! you see," she said, "when I am cooking eggs I always sing one verse for soft-boiled and two for hard boiled."

More Disastrous Than Dissipation.

Gorman—You know Bebley? Well, he has run through with all that money his father left him.

Midget—Dissipation?

Gorman — Started a newspaper.—Boston Transcript.

PATENTS.

PATENTS Lehmann, Pattison & Nesbit, Washington, D. C. Examinations free. Send for circular.

IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA
PATENT IT:
Write for free book on Patent, with Prize offer [illegible] and list of inventions wanted, to ASSOCIATED AMERICAN INVENTORS, Philadelphia, Pa.

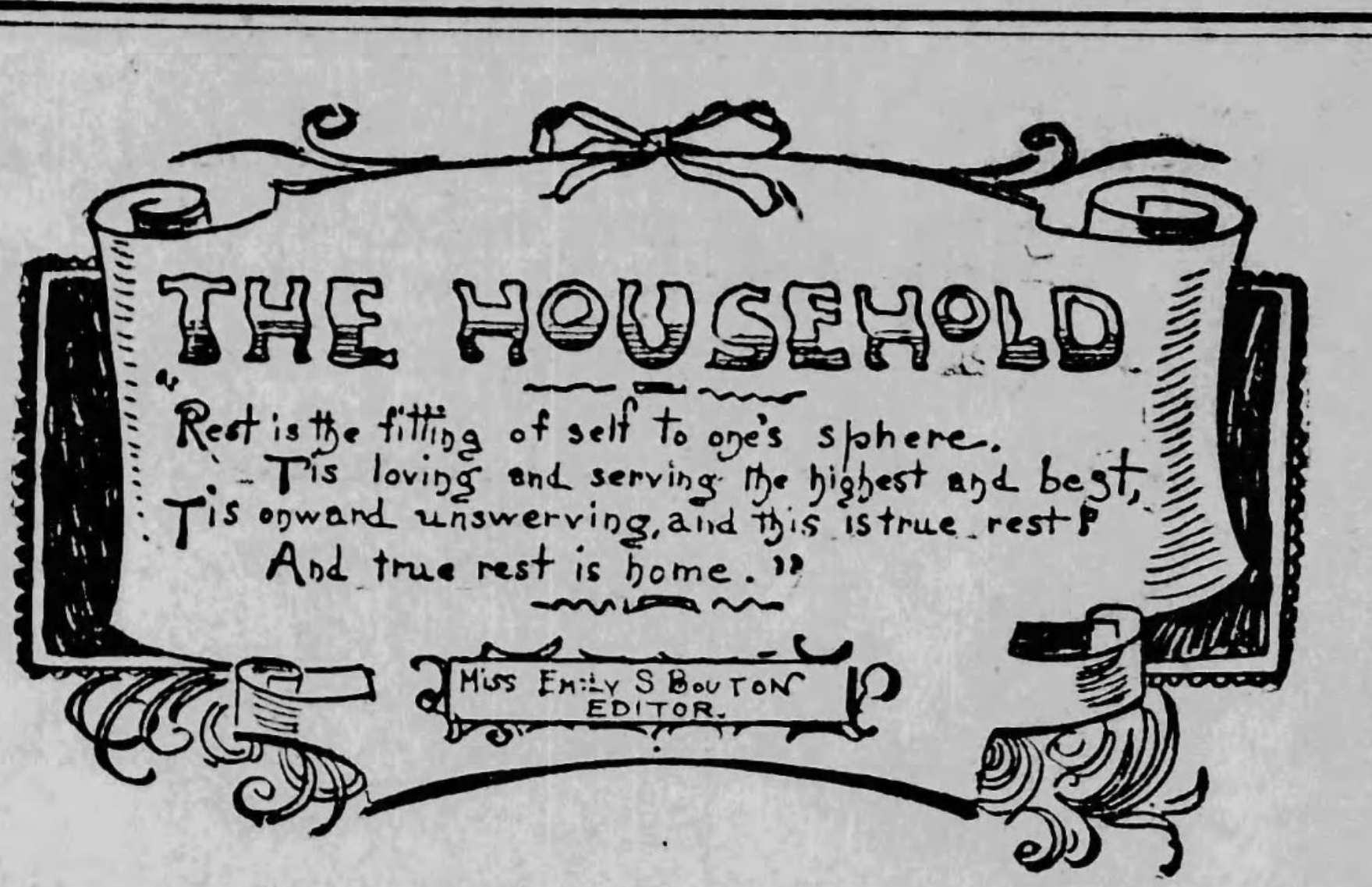
$5 PER 1,000 cash for distributing circulars. Enclose 4c. U. S. Distributing Bureau, Chicago.

A $5.00 TREATMENT FREE BY MAIL
TO - WEAK - MEN
IMMEDIATE - PERMANENT - RELIEF.
Manly Vigor quickly restored; Nervous Debility, Atrophy, Varicocele, Early Errors, Losses, Drains, etc., speedily cured. New methods; new strength, vitality and development guaranteed. Failure impossible. Enclose stamp. Address DaSILVA FORMULA Co., Box A 9, Washington, D. C.

WANTED—Young men to learn Barber Trade. Only 8 weeks required. Tools donated. Write for illustrated catalogue, mailed free. Moler's Barber College, Fourth and Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.

YELLOW KID FREE.
This is the famous Yellow Kid of the New York World. It is a ladies' stick pin or gentlemen's scarf pin, two inches long. It is hand painted on gold plate in yellow and other vivid colors in hard enamel. We send a sample FREE to each and every person in the United States. Address, LYNN & CO., 48 Bond St., New York.

$75 Per Month and EXPENSES paid any active man or woman to [illegible]


THE HOUSEHOLD
"Rest is the fitting of self to one's sphere.
'Tis loving and serving the highest and best,
'Tis onward unswerving, and this is true rest
And true rest is home."
MISS EMILY S BOUTON
EDITOR.

NOBODY KNOWS BUT MOTHER.

By Mary Morrison.

How many buttons are missing today?
Nobody knows but mother.
How many play-things are strewn in her way?
Nobody knows but mother.
How many thimbles and spools has she missed,
How many burns on each fat little fist,
How many bumps to be cuddled and kissed?
Nobody knows but mother.

How many hats has she hunted to-day?
Nobody knows but mother.
Carelessly hiding themselves in the hay,
Nobody knows but mother.
How many handkerchiefs wilfully strayed,
How many ribbons for each little maid,
How, for her care, can a mother be paid?
Nobody knows but mother.

How many muddy shoes all in a row?
Nobody knows but mother.
How many stockings to darn do you know?
Nobody knows but mother.
How many little torn aprons to mend,
How many hours of toil must she spend,
What is the time when her day's work shall end?
Nobody knows but mother.

How many lunches for "Tommy" and "Sam?"
Nobody knows but mother.
Cookies and apples and blackberry jam,
Nobody knows but mother.
Nourishing dainties for every "sweet tooth"—
Toddling "Dottie" or dignfied Ruth,
How much love sweetens the labor, forsooth?
Nobody knows but mother.

How many cares does a mother-heart know?
Nobody knows but mother.
How many joys from her mother-love flows?
Nobody knows but mother.
How many prayers by each little white bed,
How many tears for her babes has she shed,
How many kisses for each curly head?
Nobody knows but mother.

OUR COZY CORNER.

THE COLD WEATHER MAKES IT PLEASANTER THAN EVER.

Keep Up Good Courage by Talking Matters Over With Love and Sympathy for All.

This is, indeed, a red-letter day for the Cozy Corner. Some of our friends who have long been absent have returned, and several new acquaintances come to help make this the pleasantest corner of the Blade.

Peggie Clover asks if a short letter from her containing an account of a visit to some of the old battlefields of the war of the rebellion would be welcome to the old soldiers who read The Blade. Just try us, Peggie, and see if we are not, all of us, interested in such a letter, but be certain you do not write on both sides of your paper, as you did in this letter I am quoting from.

Some of the ladies brought their work with them to-day and among these was Alice, who has been so helpful in the fancy work department. To-day she was making buttonholes in a wool dress, and in answer to the question of how she managed to make them look so well, she said:

I was greatly troubled while working buttonholes in this springy, loosely woven mohair, to get a firm, smooth finish. I tried stitching twice around the button holes (after marking) with the sewing machine. It helped greatly, but did not cure the trouble, for in handling, even with care, some threads would spring out.

I found after some experimenting that to stitch carefully around the buttonhole with the machine, then moisten a piece of glue that had a smooth edge and pass lightly, but firmly, over the portion enclosed by the stitching, allowing it to dry before cutting, gave perfect results, and the buttonholes had an added firmness that is very pleasing.

A "Housekeeper" who came in while Alice was speaking, joined her in telling us something that is worth knowing.

How many of you have read the plaintive wail of the man who wishes Edison would invent a shirt that would not shrink? Poor man! How much more apt he would be to have his wish realized if he would just sigh for a training school to teach laundresses to wash shirts without shrinking them. If properly cared for, flannels may be kept as light and fluffy as new until they are worn out, and the first careless washing will spoil them. I have two little tots, who wear natural wool undergarments, and I have learned not to trust them to the tender mercies of a washerwoman, but wash them myself. I wash them carefully in a nice, clean, warm suds; put them in a foot tub, and pour hot water over them (don't be afraid to have it good and hot; it won't do any hurt if it is boiling); let them stand in this water until it is cool enough to put my hands in, and then wring them out and dry by the fire. Don't touch cold water to them, and don't hang them where they will freeze.

My little ones are wearing their shirts the second winter, and I cannot see that they have shrunk a particle. Of course flannels that have been colored, must not be scalded, but rinsed in warm water, and always dried by the fire in cold weather.

Quite apropos to this is a suggestion made by one who calls herself "Homemaker," and who comes from the land of beautiful women and fine horses—Kentucky:

In these days, when clubs and societies for the mental improvement of women are multiplied to such an alarming extent, it seems absurd, if not dangerous, to suggest anything more in that line, but if there should, by any chance, be a few housekeepers who would like something a little different, why could they not organize a club to study household science? Not only the science of cooking, but practical lessons could be given by the members, based upon actual experience in other matters that help to make up the household economy.

Marketing—what to buy, and how to buy most judiciously; what food is most suitable for different seasons and for differently constituted and employed persons, and why; preparation of menus for the family meals; laundry work in all its branches; the need of a study hour for the housekeeper, and how to arrange for it, and to use it to the best advantage; the proper training, food and amusement for children, etc.

These, and kindred topics which do not come within the scope of history, music, literature or card playing, but which are quite as important for the well being of a family, might be studied with advantage by women whose ambition is to make "home the place most like heaven," to their families.

Here is a letter from Mrs. M. T. Binns that should teach us all a lesson of faith and hope triumphant over sorrow and discouragement. And when you have read her brief notice of what she has endured, you do not know the half of the courage and bravery she has shown during these years of trial. The editor could tell you, if permitted, of her self-denying efforts to help others, who were her neighbors and companions, in ways that would seem quite impossible to one who was not filled with the greatest desire to work in His name as she has always been:

I, too, would like to say a few words to the Missouri sister. I have been ill, or would have written sooner. I would say with Mrs. L., be thankful your children are left to you, and while health and trustful confidence abide you can not long want and really suffer.

I know that He cares for those who trust and hope. Nine years ago we came to the Cherokee nation, investing our little all in a one-room house with a loft overhead, and fence, wire and posts for about a section of land, raw prairie. Now you know that the returns scarce left a surplus above expenses for several years, and my health broke down, leaving me helpless for two or three days at a time, then being little better for a week perhaps.

There was a time when courage almost left me, yet, just at this time in a most unexpected manner the Lord sent me a friend with words of love and trust, opening my eyes and heart, to appreciate more than I had been doing, the blessings I already possessed. Those open gates ever continue open and ever shall.

I now have five children living, having lost two in infancy. Having no school near us, I have had the care of their minds, and can say I thank Him for giving me help and strength to persevere, and am not ashamed of the success attained.

And above all the beautiful love and care they manifest for both their father and mother is enough to repay all endeavor; is even more than I had hoped for. Could I be otherwise than happy? No, even though I may never possess more of this world's riches, I shall do my best and rest in Him.

How different the experience of a dear friend of the Cozy Corner, who sent this letter to the editor asking for a private answer. Upon considering the matter I think she will obtain more, and better, comfort from the friends who will read her letter in The Blade than a personal answer could give her. All she needs is to have some one speak the right word to her, and say to her something that will help her to overcome the morbid fear that seems to have dominion over her now:

I have read the Household for 15 years, or more, and there are many questions I would like to ask you if I thought I could make myself understood.

Night before last there was a prominent minister found dead in our city. At first they thought he was murdered, but now they think it was a clear case of suicide, and the experts and prominent doctors in giving their opinion say that suicide is contagious, and one says "it is epidemic and that the depressing conditions of the atmosphere is a potent influence."

Now what I want to know is, Will God hold us accountable for doing things which laws that we do not understand or know anything about compel us to do?

I try very hard to be a Christian, and, while I have a comfortable home and a lovely family, yet my surroundings are such that I have grown to look on the dark side, and to dread what the future may possibly bring, until I worry so much that I do not enjoy anything I have, or could have, for the constant fear that something will happen, as I know a something will come sooner or later, and every night it seems to me that the last thing I think of is that it is one day nearer.

I try not to be ungrateful and to have faith, but the certain knowledge that sooner or later I must leave my family, or they must go, and the thought of what would become of those that are left, takes all the pleasure out of life. I try to put such feelings away and trust God, but I often wonder if He will count it a sin.

THE COOK'S DEPARTMENT.

Original Recipes Contributed by Our Friends.

The Cook returns thanks to the friends who have so kindly sent to her the following recipes, with the assurance that they "will personally recommend them." That is just what we want in The Blade—recipes that can be relied upon, and those that have been tested by practical housekeepers. We have an excellent reputation for our recipes throughout the country, and we intend to retain it by giving, as we always have done, only the best.

Cranberry Dumplings.

With 2 cupfuls of flour, sift 2 teaspoonfuls of baking powder and rub into that a piece of butter the size of a small egg. Add a pinch of salt and milk, or water, enough to roll out quite soft. Divide this dough into four parts, roll out and on each part place 2 tablespoonfuls of stewed, hot and unsweetened cranberries. Pinch the edges of the crust closely together and drop the dumplings into boiling water. Cover tightly and boil about 15 minutes. Serve with a sweet sauce, or with sugar and cream. They will make better and finer biscuit or cake, if water is used instead of milk.—Mrs. G. E. O.

Scalloped Onions.

Cut the onions in slices, crosswise, boil until tender in salted water. Drain, and in the dish in which it is to be served, place a layer of onions alternately with bread crumbs till the dish is filled, having seasoned the onions with salt and pepper to taste. The last layer should be of crumbs. Pour over this sufficient milk to moisten it, and bake for an hour in a moderate oven.—Mrs. H. E. B.

Maple Cake.

1 egg; ¾ cupful sugar; 6 tablespoonfuls milk; 1 cupful of flour; 1 heaping teaspoonful of baking powder and a little salt. Bake in a square loaf. For the frosting, dissolve 1 cupful of maple sugar in ¼ cupful of water; cook to a syrup and when a little cool stir in the beaten white of 1 egg. Beat till quite stiff and spread over the cake.—A. E. M.

Ginger Cake.

Beat to a cream 1 cupful of butter and 2 cupfuls of sugar, add 4 well-beaten eggs; 2 cupfuls molasses, 2 cupfuls sour milk, 3 teaspoonfuls soda, 1½ teaspoonfuls ginger; 2 teaspoonfuls of cinnamon; ¼ nutmeg; a little salt and 7½ cupfuls of flour. Bake in long, shallow tins and cut in squares as soon as taken from the oven. Very delicious, if eaten warm with sugar and cream.—Mrs. Chapin.

BLADE FANCY WORK CLUB

Is Pleasantly and Profitably Entertained by Miss Rose Madder.

Peggy Clover called this morning with a number of illustrated suggestions for the club, and was heartily welcomed, as she always is.

E. H. S. came in, laboring under the impression that because she was 78 years old, she could not belong to this club.

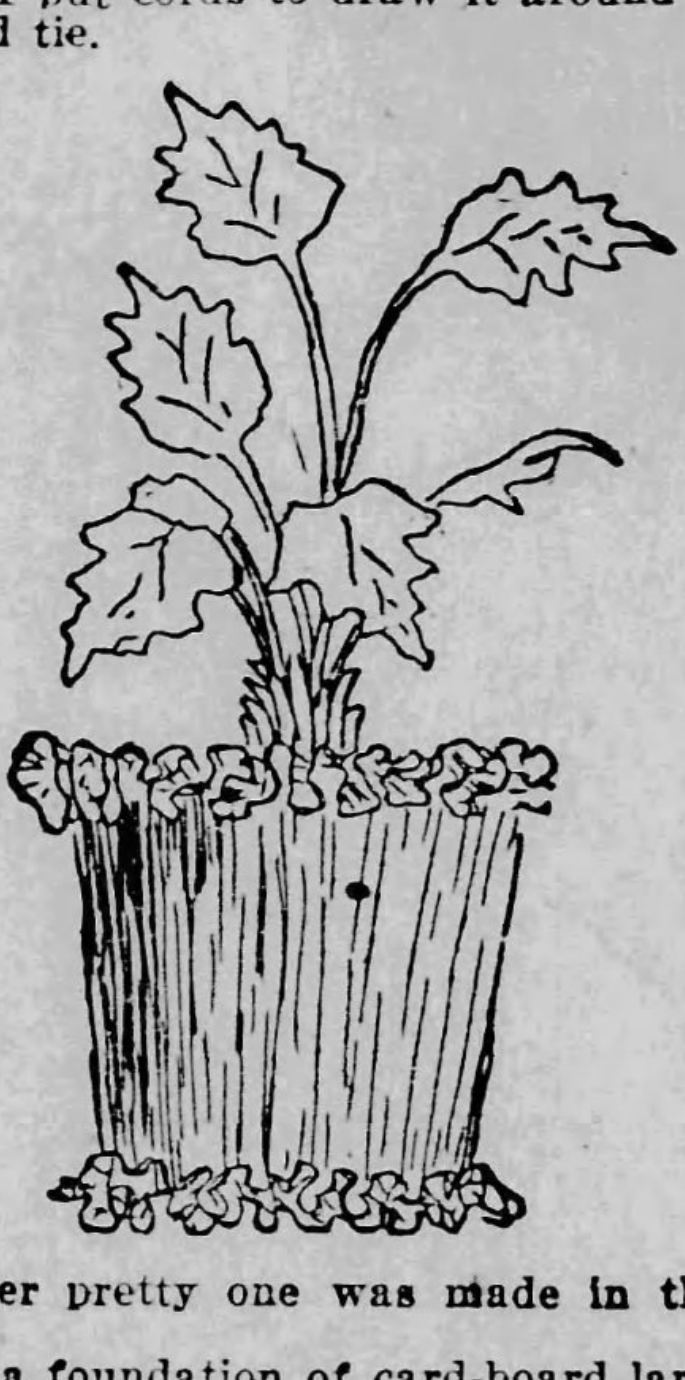
The mistake was corrected at once, and after her name had been entered on the record, she asked if any one could tell her how to set quilt blocks together with strips, in a "fence pattern," as she remembered seeing done in her younger days.

She told Ex-Schoolma'am that if she would use well-dried coffee grounds, instead of sawdust, for filling her cushions, that needles would never rust in them.

After these preliminaries had been attended to, Rose Madder explained, in her concise manner, how she made a

Flower Pot Cover.

I took about a yard and a half of art muslin, measuring the depth of the pot, and leaving the cloth wide enough to allow for a frill and wide hem at each side, and hemmed it by running it twice to form shirrs at the top and bottom, into which I put cords to draw it around the pot and tie.



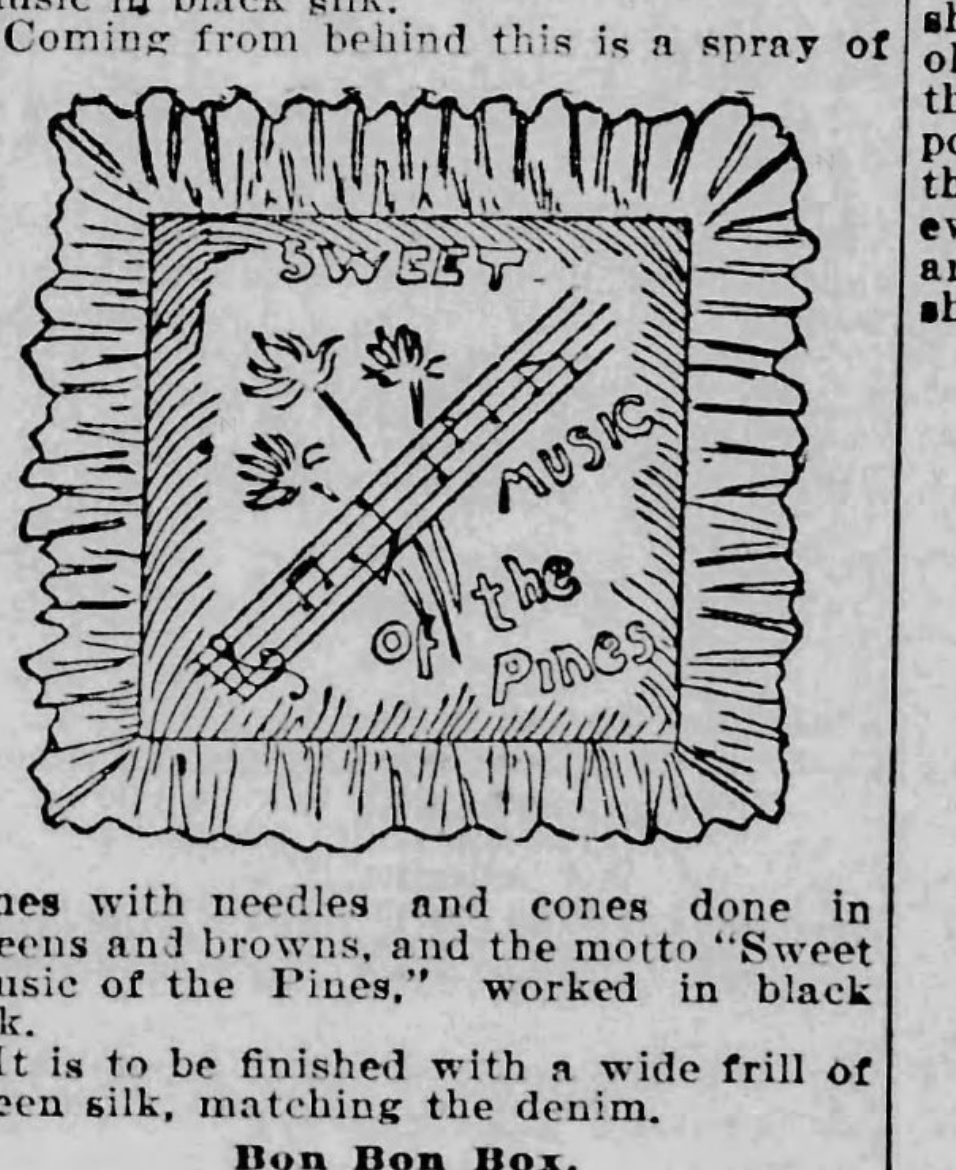
Another pretty one was made in this way:

Make a foundation of card-board large enough for the pot to go into easily, and gather crinkled tissue paper over it, putting it on full enough to allow a frill at the top and bottom and stitching it firmly to the foundation.

Pine Cushion.

A pretty pine cushion for a musical friend may be made of pale-green denim; across one side work diagonally a bar of music in black silk.

Coming from behind this is a spray of pines with needles and cones done in greens and browns, and the motto "Sweet Music of the Pines," worked in black silk.



It is to be finished with a wide frill of green silk, matching the denim.

Bon Bon Box.

Cut two pieces of thick card-board in the shape of hearts, about six inches long by four inches wide.

Place a layer of wadding on one side of each piece, and cover very neatly on both sides with white satin.

Take a strip of thick paper about one and one-half inches wide, and long enough to reach entirely around the hearts.

Cover it with the white satin, and over-seam it to one of the hearts so as to form a box, with the wadded side within.

Use the other heart for the lid, with the wadded side uppermost. Paint a pretty little design upon it, and put bows of ribbon where it is fastened to the box.

Lined with waxed paper and filled with candy, it makes a very acceptable gift, and can be used for jewelry, when its original contents have been devoured.

Crocheted Rug.

A good way in which to utilize bright-colored rags is to cut them in narrow strips, join as for carpet rags, and, with a coarse hook crochet them into circular pieces about four inches in diameter, having the last row in each piece of black.

Sew them together in any desirable shape, arranging the colors nicely, and a very pretty rug will be the result.

Mrs. E. J. B. Conrad will entertain the club next week with descriptions of some of her own "original" handiwork.

ALL THE DAY LONG.

What Comes to Waiting Ones at Morning, Noon and Night.

NOON.

We will have for dinner, we muse, on the way down stairs, a pie, light biscuits and creamed potatoes. Here is this shining little crock—wait till we stir up the fire—now in this little dish we will prepare our potatoes, and hurry together our pie paste. Out comes the dough, and not a crumb left on the glossy surface, so of course we can stir the biscuit, and afterward set the yeast in the same dish. Now it is all done and we have not stepped away from the table once, but of course all the little jars and tins and things, waited in a nice row by the moulding board before we began, and one quick trip can take them back to the corner cupboard. It is so easy to make pie crust, and we used to think it difficult, and we puttered over it so much, that of course it would get cranky. Now we fling it together soft and easy, with lard rubbed in, a little baking powder to make it light, and cold, cold water to flake it. The boys will say, "Sis, that was such a little piece," which always means more.

Two pieces of pie never hurt any man! When everything is cooking, and the kitchen is so suffocating, and we find some nerves, it occurs to us that Oklohama has a queer climate, anyway. Cold, keen frost in the morning and such a hot midday. We wish we were back into the morning hours, on the northwest porch. And suddenly the poem that we vaguely felt in the starlight, comes to us with such force and beauty that we run for a paper and pencil, and the words pour out, a living, glowing—no frosty, poem. The pie is rescued in ample time, and here comes brother number one, marching sturdily along the front porch. He sees the paper and says, "Hello, another 'piece?' Read it." And while he devours pie and biscuits we read the poem, which pleases him almost as well as the pie.

One ought not to be more than ten minutes washing the dinner dishes, had they? Especially when the water waits warm and copious on the stove? There wasn't an extra dish but the little crock and spoon and a pruning knife. Once we should have had separate dishes for the potatoes, pie crust, biscuits and yeast. It is funny we did that way. Lots of things are funny, to be sure. Think of those people that used to make us believe daytime naps were a "wicked waste of time." They sat or stood straight as ramrods all day long, and how awfully fidgety and nervous they were. If one squeaked a door, or whistled, or rustled their paper, or tipped their chair, they would wrinkle their brows and say, "O, my! my!" If a child came running in and tumbled things over, and muddied little tracks on the floor, they said, "run home, little dear," in a tone that meant "run home little demon." "Do you ascribe all this to lack of sleep?" you ask with elevated brows; well, of course, we must defend ourselves some way, for our eyelids do pull so, and the warm bath waiting, will make the temptation all the greater, so leave us to splashing and dreams—free to almost any one in the wide, wide world!

JENNIE HARRIS.

NOW HERE, NOW THERE.

THINGS WHICH ARE GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF THOUGHT.

Some Are Amusing and Some Give Food for Valuable and Earnest Meditation.

The mastery of self is the end of true living, and this mastery is shown, not in the negative attitude, by the things we do not do, but by that mental power that compels the mind to the positive attitude—the forcing of the mind to do that against which it rebels.—The Outlook.

The weak point in any system of home discipline lies with the parents. It has been said of Herbert Spencer's theory of education that it would be absolutely perfect if only the parents were perfect. Yet a good system feebly enforced is, in so far as it is enforced at all, certainly superior to a poor system. Twice, when lecturing upon the training of children to an audience of women, I have, after the lecture, been approached by one of my hearers, who in each case made almost the same criticism upon what had been said. Though the two women were unknown to each other and in cities far apart, each said virtually the same thing. Both suggested politely that however admirable the lecture might be in its general scope, it could not be valuable to more than a small portion of the audience, since it was addressed to those only who possessed indomitable will power; and that while all would probably acknowledge the wisdom of my suggestions, few could be steadfast enough to follow them out against inevitable opposition. To which stricture I can, in connection with the present subject, say that if a mother clearly recognizes her lack of will power, never is the time more propitious for her to begin to exercise what little she has than with the infant a few weeks old who has none at all. Perchance by that exercise her own too feeble will power may be induced to keep pace with the growth of that of her child. In any event, it is her only hope for supremacy, and therefore is an opportunity that should be eagerly embraced.

An ancient Chinese sage,
Ten thousand years B. C.,
Wrote on his bamboo page
In hieroglyphics free:
"As rivers seek the sea,
Though man may say them nay,
From Shoh Hong to Bo Hee,
A maid will have her way!"

And when he left life's stage,
That wise, defunct Chinee
Bequeathed as heritage
This ponderous decree:
"As long as Oolong tea
Shall brew in pot of clay,
Or bird roost in the tree,
A maid will have her way!"

So, then, why try to cage
The most evasive She,
Or ceaseless warfare wage
Because you can't agree?
Kismet! The thing must be,
Chafe at it as you may;
Sing small in minor key:
A maid will have her way!"

ENVOY.

Princes, when you engage,
Note well the price you pay:
In this most cultured age
A maid will have her way!
—Henry Romaine.

The following extract from Havelock Ellis's book, Man and Woman, is rich:

"Again, until quite recent times it has over and over again been emphatically stated by brain anatomists that the frontal region is relatively larger in men, the parietal in women. This conclusion is now beginning to be regarded as the reverse of the truth, but we have to recognize that it was inevitable. It was firmly believed that the frontal region is the seat of all the highest and most abstract intellectual processes, and if on examining a dozen or two brains an anatomist found himself landed in the conclusion that the frontal region is relatively larger in women, the probability is that he woul feel that he had reached a conclusion that was absurd. It may, indeed, be said that it is only since it has become known that the frontal region of the brain is of greater relative extent in the ape than it is in man, and has no special connection with the higher intellectual processes, that it has become possible to recognize the fact that that region is relatively more extensive in women."

There is a virtue that is constantly with all of us relapsing into a vice, and that is the virtue of saving things. A virtue? One is not sure but that it is a vice even at the start. For things are the material convenience of the moment—a temporary manifestation, so to speak, and when they have served their purpose they should pass on. If they do not vanish they persist and accumulate, and by and by one awakens to find himself ensnared and enchained and over-weighted by the burden. It clogs the very atmosphere. It is a weight on the spirit. If a woman is traveling about, for instance, with a number of trunks, she finds herself carrying them all on her nerves rather than to remain oblivious of them. In proportion to the value of their contents does she have them on her mind.

In domestic life the terrors of the semi-annual-house-cleaning are largely due to the enforced care of superfluous things, that must be handled, attended to, and put back again, only to render the repetition of the process necessary. If one thinks of it, at least half his time and strength goes to the care of mere things that are really of no importance at all. They are not merely of no advantage; they are very distinctly a disadvantage. They produce fret and worry and irritation. And these accumulations are due to the fatal habit of saving things.—Boston Budget.

The following is the plaint of the pessimistic man:

It's only when you've cash to burn
That offers come to lend;
Friends choose what you already have
When kindly gifts they send;
The most persistent man is he
Whose absence most you wish;
It's on Friday that you have
No appetite for fish.

The dish of which your hostess boasts
Is something you abhor;
The story that is slowest told
Is one you've heard before;
The dictionary never tells
The thing you wish to know;
You never catch the girl you like
Beneath the mistletoe.
—Washington Star.

The Inspector-General of Bankruptcy in England says in his report that the failures among women in business are very few compared with those among men. He puts the matter in a nutshell as follows: "A woman conducts her business on the cardinal principle of making as few losses as possible; a man, on the cardinal principle of making as many profits as possible. The woman's maxim is 'Avoid losses,' the man's, 'Look out for gains.'"

Scarlet parties have been given before, but they are revived again, and some girls have arranged to give one next week which they pretend will outdo all previous attempts at this sort of entertainment. They have sent out all the invitations on scarlet paper (but of course in white envelopes), and have asked the guests to come arrayed from top to toe in brilliant scarlet. It is hard on the blond girls, and will, no doubt, make them look ghastly pale; but they are quite willing to sacrifice the becoming in order not to mar the effect of the tout ensemble. The men will all wear red coats. They do not object to, as their golf coats and hunting coats come into good play, and are always effective.

One of the prettiest gowns, to be worn by one of the girls, is to be of red mousseline de soie, accordion-pleated, made over silk of a much deeped shade. The same idea of two tones is carried out in the bodice, which will be of a pale shade of the mousseline de soie over the darker silk, and it will be trimmed with shaded red roses, from the palest pink to the deepest red. In her hair she will wear an aigrette of the three shades. Red satin slippers and red silk stockings and a pair of black kid gloves will complete this stunning costume, which will have the advantage of perhaps escaping the "Mephistophelian" appearance of some of the other girls' dresses. Jacqueminot rose paper shades will cover the lamps both on the table and in the drawing-room, and bonbons, cakes and all that goes for table decorations will be tied up with red satin ribbons.—Harper's Bazar.

Remarkable Presence of Mind.

A lady had issued invitations for a party of twelve, and on the morning of the appointed day, when conferring with the footman, she discovered that one of the twelve silver shells in which scolloped oysters were to be served had been misplaced. Rigid search for the missing article having proved unavailing, the lady decided that, sooner than give up that particular course, she would decline simply oysters when they were handed her, and so the eleven shells would be sufficient. It happened that, when the oysters were served at dinner the hostess was engaged in a very animatted conversation with one or two of her neighbors, and forgetting her determination, took one of the shells of oysters and set it before herself. If the servant's heart fell in consternation at this, he gave no external sign of it, but, speaking in tones distinct, though low, said, respectfully: "Excuse me, madam, but you said I was to remind you that the doctor forbade your eating oysters."—The Argonaut.

His "Little Feller."

"I happened to be down in my cellar the other morning when the ashman came around to collect the ashes," said a gentleman who resides in Second avenue. "I was opening a barrel of great red apples at the time, and when the big, dust-covered and necessarily untidy man came back with the empty ash barrel I picked up an apple and held it out toward him, saying as I did so:

"'Won't you have an apple?'

"He took it eagerly, saying as he did so:

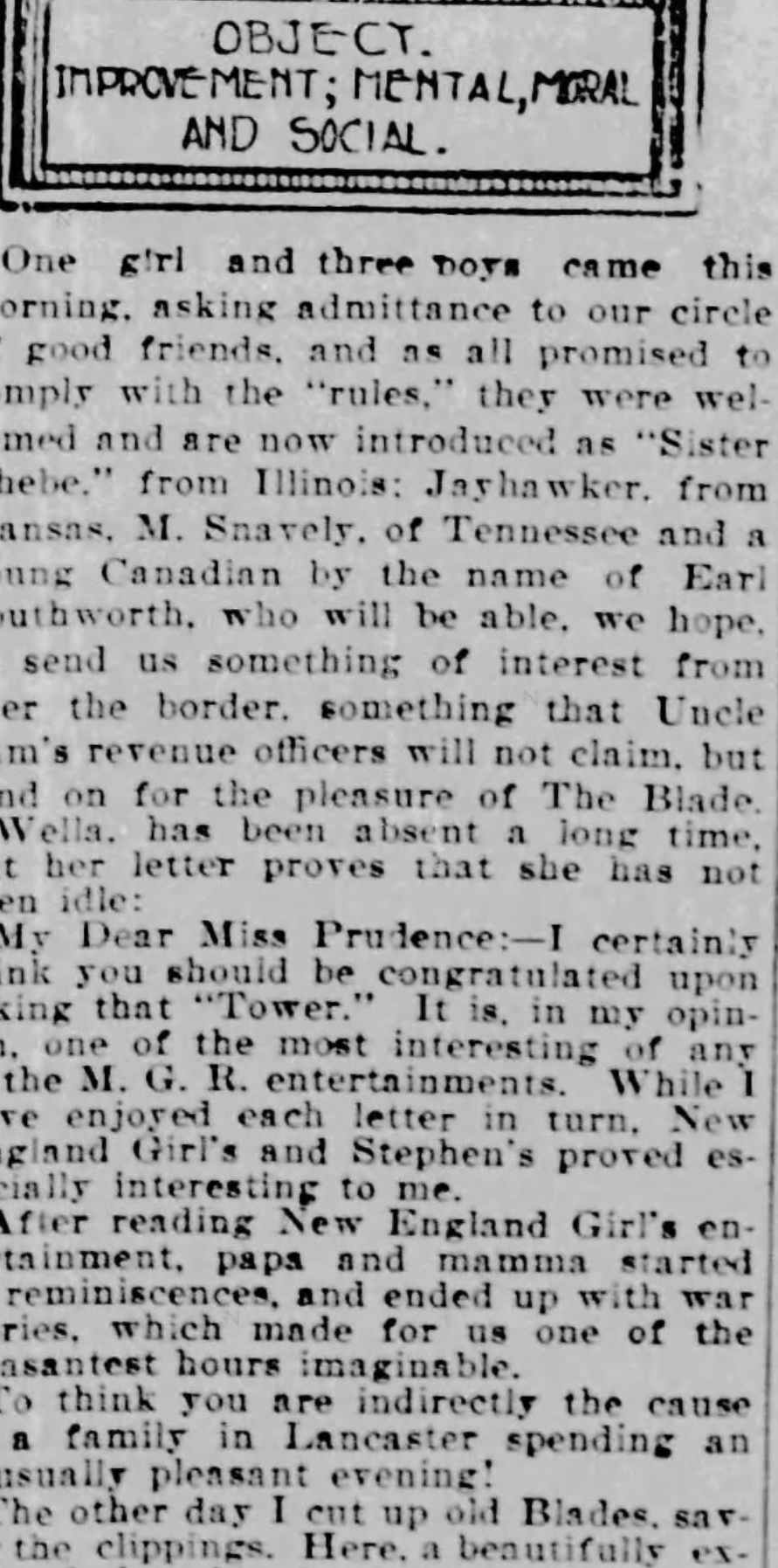
"'Thank ye, sir; I've a little feller at home who'll be tickled to death to git it. I most always find something or other in the ash barrels to carry home to 'im at night, but it ain't often I git anything equal to this big apple. I tell ye the little feller's eyes will shine when he sees it.'

"I don't know how many times that day my thoughts were of that big, rough handed fellow, with that apple put away so carefully in his pocket for that 'little feller.'

"When evening came I thought of the 'little feller' who was on the lookout for the big, dust-covered father, with the calloused and soiled hands, but with the true heart and the kindly word that made him a king in the eyes of that 'little feller.'

"It must have been a very poor and humble home to which the man went at the close of his weary day, but then there was the 'little feller's' presence to make beautiful even the bare walls and floors and to bring the love light to his father's eyes and joy to his father's heart.

"These 'little fellers' glorify and beautify many a house in which poverty abides. But human affections can sweetly and patiently endure toil and rags and poverty when there is a 'little feller' to meet and greet the father when the long day is done."—Detroit Free Press.


THE MERRY GO-ROUNDS
"Do all the good you can,
In all the ways you can,
To all the people you can."
OBJECT.
IMPROVEMENT; MENTAL, MORAL AND SOCIAL.

One girl and three boys came this morning, asking admittance to our circle of good friends, and as all promised to comply with the "rules," they were welcomed and are now introduced as "Sister Phebe," from Illinois; Jayhawker, from Kansas, M. Snavely, of Tennessee and a young Canadian by the name of Earl Southworth, who will be able, we hope, to send us something of interest from over the border, something that Uncle Sam's revenue officers will not claim, but send on for the pleasure of The Blade.

Wella, has been absent a long time, but her letter proves that she has not been idle:

My Dear Miss Prudence:—I certainly think you should be congratulated upon taking that "Tower." It is, in my opinion, one of the most interesting of any of the M. G. R. entertainments. While I have enjoyed each letter in turn, New England Girl's and Stephen's proved especially interesting to me.

After reading New England Girl's entertainment, papa and mamma started on reminiscences, and ended up with war stories, which made for us one of the pleasantest hours imaginable.

To think you are indirectly the cause of a family in Lancaster spending an unusually pleasant evening!

The other day I cut up old Blades, saving the clippings. Here, a beautifully expressed thought of some poet; a critique of some book by Miss Bouton, or a pretty word picture from the pen of some M. G. R. member. These I pasted in a book, and have one of the nicest books any one could have.

I have not forgotten the Order by any means, even though I have been silent; but this personal letter will show, in a measure, my appreciation for the interesting column. I have been too busy to do anything except just what is occupying me—music, C. L. S. C. work and a bit of housework and sewing, besides being substitute teacher.

Inda is another appreciative reader of the "Tower:"

I have come in for a little chat with you this morning. I wish to tell you how much I, for one, enjoyed our experience meeting. I hope you will have another one this year, it would give us all something to think about, and perhaps we would be on the watch for something more important to do. Then too, let me thank you for your kind words to me, I fully appreciate them.

I fully agree with Isabel in regard to your revising our letters. I am one among many who have not had the privilege of a good education, and have been benefited a great deal. I am sure I would give you a great, big hug, and I would not consult Miss Prudence, either. I believe I should like to correspond with Isabel I like the tone of her letter so much.

I am enjoying your "Tower" very much; am waiting anxiously for your arrival in Michigan, even if I do not see you myself.

I had a hearty laugh over the "prelude" of your journey, where you stated that the mercury ranged anywhere from 30 degrees upward, and the Schoolmistress and the fancy work editor sitting there robed in winter cloaks and muffs! I know you must be getting tired of me by this time, so will close by telling you I agree with the sentiment of "Meek Receiving." If there were only more people like that.

I know a little turkey story I will tell some time when you have time to listen to it.

Send your story right along, we always have time to listen to good stories and shall, doubtless, enjoy yours.

Lydia, in answer to Jew, writes:

I do not think it would be wrong for a Christian to attend a party where dancing was engaged in, or for one to join in that pleasure, any more than it would be to indulge in many of the games that are substituted for dancing at evening parties. Always provided that your example in this, as in all other things, will not prove a temptation, or a stumbling block to others. When this is the case we ought, I think, always give up any personal pleasure, rather than lead another person into temptation, and it is best to be very careful in all we do, as we do not always know how far our example may influence others.

Sunflower Kid has somewhat to say to the teachers:

I hope Miss Prudence does not think that I am taking too much space and time from the other M. G. R.'s for coming so soon again.

Pussy's question "What do you think of a compulsory school law?" interests me very much and the consequence is here I am again.

I, like Pussy, have found a great need of such a law in my school work; and believe it would be a great benefit to teacher and pupils.

What do the teachers of the M. G. R. think of the free text book system? I think all the teachers will agree with me that one of the greatest inconveniences to a teacher is insufficiency of text books among the pupils. From observation I have found that this lack of books is not confined to the poorer class only, but quite frequently is found among those who could well afford to have them. And I think the only remedy for this evil (for it is an evil) is the free text book system.

I would like to hear from all the M. G. R. teachers on this subject.

This letter from Sea Breeze will make such of us as live in a less favored climate almost envious of her in her home in "summer land:"

I, like Elaine, joined in the summer of '95, but have been silent for fear my letters were not up to the requirements and not worthy a place in the column, and, of course, a waste of time, paper and postage.

I wonder how many of you Easterners are enjoying such a winter as we are? Not a flake of snow yet; grass is growing, fruit trees are putting on their new spring dresses, and gardeners are preparing to plant their early gardens this month (February).

I choose my "nom" because I live by the sea and enjoy the cool breezes in summer.

Speaking of happy homes, Alice lives in a town that is equal in some ways to any place on earth. No wonder, if the people of that town are good, how can they help it? Would there were more such places:

I live in a very pretty little town of about 2,000 inhabitants. It is (not boasting at all) a model little city. We have two schools, a public and normal, five churches, electric lights, no saloons and excellent people.

I have been in the country this winter teaching school.

This makes my fourth term. I enjoy teaching, but I do not enjoy walking through the mud.

Miss Prudence thanks Alice for the pleasant words and the kind invitation to visit her that were sent with this letter, and will certainly accept if it is ever possible.

"Lenore" sends a very startling and, to an expectant teacher, discouraging definition of what is required to make a successful teacher:

Thinking of the qualities requisite for a business career, reminds me of the qualities a successful school teacher should possess

He must be a walking encyclopedia of useful knowledge; a pronouncing vocabulary, and a leather-bound volume of general information.

He must have the diplomacy of a statesman, the skill of a detective, and the patience of Job. It is also best to be cross-eyed, so as to look in opposite directions at the same time, and to have the powers of an astrologer so as to foretell events, and of a policeman to prevent their happening.

He must expect criticism from pupils and patrons, and remember that a teacher is not expected to have any feelings or require any aid or sympathy; but is merely a machine designed to instruct the "Young Americas," who, in turn, consider it their privilege and duty to devise such a mental torture for the sensitive teacher as would compare favorably with the physical torture devised by the savages of olden times.

He must be cheerful and brave-hearted; doing his duty nobly, knowing that—

"Sometimes the narrow stepping stones we tread,
The steep and terrible ascent of duty—
May change to velvet terraces, o'er spread
With emerald beauty."

I appeal to the "teachers" in our circle to say whether or no this is any fancy sketch; I am "one of 'em," and know whereof I speak.

Miss Prudence has a nice letter from "Eadie" for next week, also some others that are omitted from lack of space.

Will "Rural Maid" please state if she has been a member of the M. G. R.'s before her last letter was written; if so, what name was given before?

The "would-be member" from Oregon can obtain the M. G. R. badge only from The Blade office, as it was made especially for us. Price, 50 cents. Address letters for this department to Toledo Blade, Toledo, Ohio, and in the lower left-hand corner put the letters M. G. R.

Eleanore, sends this very practical answer to "Lulu":

I have just read "Lulu's" letter, and I can not help a feeling of surprise that a Christian woman, as she seems to be, should think so badly of her God as to think that He, having made her a "never strong or healthy woman," should punish her for not doing more than her strength would permit.

It is my opinion, that she is obliged to go on crutches because she was careless some time and did not look where she was stepping. It is a very severe lesson, but it is like many another—the result of disobedience to natural laws.

For me, I do not think it right to call the result of our carelessness, or fault, a "Divine dispensation" to make us love God better, or to do our duty to our own folks more conscientiously.

If we place our hand on the hot stove, it will be burned, and if we slip down on the ice we shall be just as likely to be lame, as a result, whether we have been the most careless, or careful wife and mother. Only in one instance we shall have more sympathy from husband and children than in the other.

So cheer up, Lulu; trust the God whom you adore, sufficiently to believe that He will not punish you in order that you may love Him better, for a love that is born of fear, is not the kind that will be acceptable to a God of love, as "perfect love casteth out fear."

A Subscriber asks: "In addressing a company of men and women, which should be mentioned first—Gentleman or Ladies?"

The invariable rule at such times is to mention the ladies first, unless the speaker is a lady, and reverses the order in a humorous manner.

In speaking of their parents, children should be taught to say Mother and Father, and to give precedence and honor to the woman in every instance when the two sexes are mentioned at the same time.

G. E. O., sends word that chilblains may be speedily relieved by rubbing them with a mixture of saltpetre and glycerine, and that bunions may be cured by binding on them tannin and glycerine, but she fails to give the proportions of each.

Mrs. L. B. recommends bathing chilblains, affected feet in a tea made by boiling potato parings in water. To be used at night before retiring. Must be used as hot as possible.

Mrs. I. M. H. suggests to Iowa Subscriber, that if she will mix her stove blacking with alum water and apply to the nearly cold stove with a brush, then polish with a cloth, she will find her stove to be bright and shining to a degree. This must be applied but once a week to the top of the stove, and twice a year to the sides. Every day the stove should be rubbed with the polishing cloth.

LITTLE SCHOOLMATES.

Two wee ones in the rosy throng
The village school adorning,
Close, hand in hand they trudged along
To school, nor missed a morning.

The others smiled to see them there—
That lassie and her brother—
And called the prim, old-fashioned pair
The "father" and the "mother."

He helped her o'er the crossing wide;
Her books and slate he carried;
And when the school was out, with pride,
To take her home he tarried.

Ah! but the sight to me was dear,
So trusting, she so tender!
He was her little cavalier,
Her watchful, brave defender.

"My little man," I said one day,
"Who is the best and sweetest,
The nicest girl in school; and, pray,
Who do you think the neatest?"

Upon the wee one at his side
He smiled and fondly kissed her;
Then answered, with a flush of pride:
"Oh, you must mean my sister!"
—From the Universalist.

MISS PRUDENCE'S "TOWER."

The Chaperone Visits a Gold Mine and Attends a Bloomer Social.

There was joy in the heart and household of the S. D. president as the children announced that: "They have come." Pet and Ben, came trotting gayly up the road to "Sunny Slope," the president's home, and seated in the "Democrat" was Miss Prudence, who was our guest.

After supper, as I cleared away the dishes and she rocked the cradle of my youngest, with the deftness of a veteran (and her foot), It was agreed that, as our time was so limited, and the distances to be covered were so great, we should make pleasure trips with the aid of Prince Houssain's carpet, or some other magical means.

Away we flit to Sioux Falls and visit the great quarries where the famous granite is obtained that forms the trimmings and often the whole fronts of our finest buildings.

In Spink county, on the banks of the James river we saw the interesting spot where Abbie Gardener was rescued from the Sioux Indians; and at Chamberlain we visited the famous artesian well, and wondered where such a volume of water could come from.

The well is 600 feet deep, has an eight-inch casing, and throws an eight-inch stream 14 feet high, discharging 3,000 gallons a minute. Such a gusher! It could discount even Bryan!

On to the Hot Springs in the Hills where we rejuvenate, and limber up our rheumatic joints by a bath in the healing waters, and explore Wind Cave, which is a few miles from the Springs.

The entrance to this cave is through a small, dark hole, out of which is always rushing a cold, chilling wind. It has been explored for nearly 100 miles, and contains about that many rooms. It is a beautiful place with its stalactites and stalagmites, a fairyland indeed.

According to a local legend, a band of banished, frightened fairies are still dancing and playing in the unexplored regions.

At Deadwood we visited the great works where the mineral is refined, and even descended a shaft into a gold mine; but, despite the fact that we are for gold, we would rather have it above ground.

Ascending by means of the narrow-guage road to the top of Harney Peak, 8,200 feet above the sea, we gazed over a section of land abounding in minerals.

In less than twenty years, more than one hundred million dollars in gold have been taken from these hills, to say nothing of American tin, which is profitably mined by an English syndicate.

There is a great deal of South Dakota that is undeveloped; the only things that are fully developed being the Populist and Russian thistle; these are both pests and belong to the tumble-weed party.

After leaving this charming hostess, my way lay to the northward, where, in North Dakota, I was taken in charge by Mr. C. E. Payne, who, with a due regard for the proprieties, met me at the station in Bismarck, accompanied by a lady friend and her husband.

In this good company I visited the State Hospital and penitentiary in Bismarck, and the Insane Asylum at Jamestown.

Journeying eastward toward the central part of the state, my host bade me welcome to his own bachelor abode, where everything bore spick and span evidence to his good house-keeping and indicated that "company" was expected.

It came that evening, and I had an opportunity of meetin- some of the typical people of the state.

Gentlemen, faultlessly dressed, but bearing the unmistakable "cow-boy" air came in, together with the intellectual school teacher from "Bosting," while business men from Chicago bustled in, all escorting the farmer's jolly daughters.

I enjoyed the occasion very much and shall long remember it.

Our next stopping place was Mayville, where we visited the state normal school, which is a very fine institution, and then my host hurried me away to Fargo, to listen to a political speech made by the state candidate for Congress on the "Issues of the day."

I'm afraid I was not as intensely interested in that as I ought to have been, but I thoroughly enjoyed the long drive next day through the Red river valley, which brought me to the end of my pleasant visit in North Dakota, and to the state of Minnesota.

Here, in spite of a most cordial assurance of welcome sent by postal some weeks before, my president failed to put in an appearance, and I was obliged to journey on to the southward, until Iowa was reached.

Here the state president, Miss Carrie M. Kepner, being absent from home at the hospital where she is on duty, deputized a friend to do the honors of her native town, which I found to be a very pretty little city.

Having duly admired the handsome court house and drank of the mineral water in the park (that is said to be a cure-all for every ill) we made a hurried visit to the "Colonies"—German settlements to the eastward of Marengo.

The inhabitants are all Germans, who try to live as nearly as possible like the people in the old country, and I considered them an interesting study in their quaint garb, which consists, for the women, of a calico gown and sun-bonnet.

My hostess "pro tem." next took me to the hospital at Clarinda, where I met "Cara Mia" at last.

When we arrived the male patients were being put through their daily military drill, and acquitted themselves admirably, too.

After dinner, in company with the supervisors and a few attendants, we went through the wards, finding evidences of good care everywhere throughout the cosy, homelike place.

I visited the industrial building where in one department chairs, benches, etc., were being made; in another shoes, and so on.

After supper I was taken to a bloomer social, given by the ladies of the lodge to which Miss Kepner belongs.

Before I left home, I might have hesitated about accepting an invitation to such an affair, but after riding a bicycle, a horse, and a burro, going up to the clouds (nearly) in the South and into the bowels of the earth in the West, I was prepared for anything except a "sell," and that was what I got at the "bloomer party."

Bloomers there were in any quantity; not the bifurcated garment I expected to see, however, but blooming flowers of every description!

(To be Continued.)

OUR WONDER COLUMN.

1.—WHO WAS HE?

He was born about 1803, his father being an English trader named Powell, and his mother the daughter of a Seminole chief. After the beginning of the second Seminole war, he killed Major Dale, who was sent against him with a small detachment of soldiers, and with two or three hundred followers, took to the everglades, where he fought for a year with great energy and skill, the superior numbers sent out to conquer him. He was finally taken prisoner by Gen. Jessup, and confined at Fort Moultrie until his death, which occurred in January, 1838.

PANSY.

2.—HALF SQUARE.

X X X X X X
X X X X X
X X X X
X X X
X X
X

1.—A popular member of O. W. C.
2.—To call forth.
3.—Departed.
4.—A male nickname.
5.—A prefix denoting repetition.
6.—A consonant.

ARION.

3.—AN EASY PROBLEM.

The top of Trinity church steeple is 268 feet from the ground. Three-fourths of the height of the steeple above the church, plus 12 feet equals the height of the church. What is the height of the steeple above the church?

DY.

4.—UNITED STATES SOLDIERS.

1.—Fold nice twist.
2.—He was in ill, marm.
3.—Slay stern Gus.
4.—Anne, let her gain.
5.—How old a river.

N. E. GIRL.

5.—QUERY.

What great undertaking was finished in the United States in 1825?

BONNIE BURNIE.

6.—QUOTATION.

Who wrote:

"The best than any mortal hath,
Is that which every mortal shares."

INVALID.

Answers to Puzzles of February 11.

1.—Mary Abigail Dodge (Gail Hamilton).
2.—Blaine.
3.—Words forming square: Italy, taboo, aback, loche, yoked.
4.—Five dollars and the shoes.

Shakespeare wrote:

"'Tis better to be lowly born
And range with humble livers in content,
Than be perked up in a glistering grief,
And wear a golden sorrow."

Answer to Query of February 4, sent by Pansy:

The "Corsned," or morsel of execration, was a piece of cheese or bread, used in early times to ascertain whether persons suspected of any crime were guilty or not. The Corsned, according to Blackstone, was consecrated with a form of exorcism, desiring of the Almighty that it might cause convulsions and paleness if the man were guilty, but might turn to health and nourishment if he were innocent. In this mode of divination, barley-bread appears to have had the preference.

Chat.

Correct answers were received from W. P. E., Von C. M. B., A. Faul, Bonnie Burnie, Helen, Pauline, Arion, Pansy and Charlestown Lily.

Puzzles were accepted from W. P. E. C. M. B., Bonnie Burnie, Marley Cranford, and Arion.

C. M. B.: All the puzzles are solved each week by some of the members; the mistake occurred in the references in the Biblical puzzle. "Tower" is Samantha Allen's pronunciation of "tour."

A Faul wants to know what's the matter with W. P. E. that he went below the head this month.

Pauline: Congratulations. I should be sorry to have your seat occupied by anyone else.

Arion: Pauline sends congratulations. The Bannership does not go by favor, but by conscientious award.

Charlestown Lily: Come in again.

News of the Week.

The Blade is a newspaper for free American citizens, and under the above head, aims to give first, those events which are the history and progress of the world for the week—those which every intelligent man needs to know and should know; second, all important political events; and lastly, the leading minor occurrences that possess interest to every educated and thinking reader.

THE CRETAN TROUBLE.

Insurgent Camp Bombarded by the Foreign Fleet.

London, Feb. 22.—War in grim earnest raged yesterday in Crete.

Last Sunday the fleets of the powers landed blue jackets at Canea to maintain the peace, and ostensibly to prevent Greek troops landing at that port.

Yesterday these same squadrons trained their big guns on the strongholds of the Cretan insurgents and shelled them from their position.

It was a day of the most intense excitement in Canea. From early morning the insurgents had kept up a galling fire on the Turkish forts. The latter returned the leaden compliments with vigor, and what with the roaring of cannon and the whizzing of bullets the peaceably inclined people in the town had a frightful experience.

Concerted Action Arranged.

It became evident in the forenoon that the admirals on the cruisers were becoming uneasy over the condition of affairs. Dispatch boats flitted from war ship to war ship and flag signals were exchanged indicating that concerted action was being arranged.

Meanwhile the decks of the cruisers were being prepared for action. Guns were uncovered and marines were lined up to meet all emergencies.

It can be said, however, that nothing was done on the spur of the moment or without grave consideration. The so-

VICE ADMIRAL HOPKINS.
Who Commands the British Naval Force in Cretan Waters.

called rebels had been warned by couriers bearing white flags that if their firing did not cease the battleships would take a hand in the desperate melee.

These warnings were scoffingly disregarded, for upon their receipt the fusillade from rebel rifles only increased.

Austria Fires the First Shot.

The time for action had come, and the tremendous roar of a discharged shell shook Canea as if an earthquake had occurred beneath it. The first shot had come from an Austrian boat, and speedily all the other war ships joined in the bombardment.

The fire was generally accurate, and the effect withering. The Cretan insurgents were driven pell-mell from behind their breastworks, and, throwing away arms and accouterments, they hastily sought places of refuge from the hissing missiles of the fleet. The deadly ping of their bullets across the empty streets ceased, and, as the firing of the big war ships stopped, the cloud of gunpowder smoke floated lazily northward over the calm sea.

There is an armed peace now, but it is feared that it will not last long. The powers have taken one daring and menacing step. Not only that, but they have decided that another crushing blow shall be struck at the Greek plans for securing control of the island.

Warning Given to Vassos.

The admirals has issued a statement that must cause consternation at Athens. It is directed to Colonel Vassos, who leads the first corps of invaders, and who is now encamped at Aghioi-Theodori, not far from Platania.

The document warns Vassos that it is the intention of the admirals to attack

NIKOLAS CHRISTODOULAKIS,
Cretan War Chief.

his troops should he attempt to advance to the interior of the island.

As Vassos has but about 400 men, and as the forces on board the four men-of-war anchored off his camp are probably six times that number, it is inferred that he will make no move until he hears from the Delyannis government.

This new action of the powers is taken here as an indication that the Grecian scheme may yet miscarry.

None of the diplomats will talk, but it is evident the attitude of England is perplexing the cabinet. While Salisbury has refused to join the proposed blockade of Piraeus, British war ships, if reports from Athens are to be credited, are helping the Turks.

England Aiding the Sultan.

Now comes the report that a British man-of-war is convoying a Turkish transport carrying 1,500 troops for a Cretan port. Should this report prove true, lively times may be expected this week in Parliament. Meanwhile all Greece is rejoicing over their alleged control of the Island of Crete. A huge mass meeting was held yesterday at Athens, at which an address to the king was adopted pledging blood and treasure to maintain Grecian supremacy in the island.

King George, it is said, spoke at the meeting, and intensified the patriotism of his people. But the odds are against him if the powers enforce their threats.

The battle of yesterday would seem to indicate that a halt is to be called. He cannot fight them all, or even singly, and a decision must soon be made.

The time is near at hand when the secret and scheming backer of Greece in its onslaught on Turkey must make his presence felt. Eyes turn Russiaward. Perhaps the czar will soon relieve the terrible suspense from which Europe suffers.

THE POWERS AT ODDS.

William Doesn't Like England's Stand on Cretan Question.

Berlin, Feb. 19.—The newspapers of this city reflect the bitter resentment felt by Emperor William at the rejection by the Marquis of Salisbury of his majesty's personal proposal to coerce Greece by a joint blockade of the Piraeus, the port of Athens, by the fleets of the powers, in order to check the warlike demonstrations of Greece.

The emperor's proposal caused great surprise in diplomatic circles, as it was generally assumed that he would not oppose the Greek pretensions in regard to Crete, owing to his sister, Sophia, being the wife of the Duke of Sparta, the crown prince of Greece. But it appears that there has long been an absolute estrangement between the emperor and his sister, arising from old-time quarrels, and his majesty in addition never has been over-friendly to the royal family of Greece.

In diplomatic circles it is surmised that Emeperor William's dignity was injured in some manner, probably by the firm attitude assumed by Greece in the face of the remonstrances of the powers, of Germany in particular, and hence the extreme proposal to blockade the Piraeus, which was urged by his majesty with unusual vehemence, through the ambassadors here, upon the European cabinets.

The Marquis of Salisbury, without any hesitation, promptly declined the emperor's proposition, saying that the public opinion in Great Britain would never acquiesce to such a policy.

The National Zeitung makes direct charges against the British of attempting to disturb the peace of Europe and says: "The immediate future will show whether the agreement of the powers will be disturbed by a manifestation of separate British interests which promises to raise the veil hitherto shrouding the origin of the extremely strange Greek adventure. From the outset we have been of the opinion that it was not so much to attack Turkey as to strike a blow at European peace."

Greeks Defiant.

A dispatch received here from Athens says that Greece has declared that if the bombardment of insurgents positions in the island of Crete is repeated, she will break off diplomatic relations with the powers.

It is also stated that Assin Bey, the Turkish minister at Athens, threatens that Turkey will break off her relations unless the Greek troops are withdrawn from Crete.

IS IT TRUE?

It is Said That the Powers Have Reached an Agreement.

Paris, Feb. 22.—It is stated that the powers have accepted the proposal to grant autonomy to Crete. Even if this is true, it would naturally at once be followed by the dispatch of an ultimatum to Greece. This probably accounts for the bourse rumors regarding an ultimatum.

KING GEORGE TALKS.

He is Impatient of the Dilatory Policy of the Sultan.

New York, Feb. 19.—In response to a cable message to his majesty, the King of Greece, the New York World has received the following:

"Athens, Greece, Feb. 16.—After six months of waiting, the reforms imposed upon Turkey by the great powers are not put into execution.

"The Turks oppose the organization of the gen d'armerie (constabulary) on February 3 the Turkish troops began the massacres. The Christian quarters at Canea were burned.

"About 150,000 women and children are refugees to-day in Greece.

"The Cretans, in despair, proclaimed their independence and union with Greece.

"The Hellenic government sent a small army to occupy Crete in order to restore order and pace.

"Five great powers occupy the four towns of Canea, Rethymmo, Candea and Sitia.

"All the remainder of the island is in the possession of the Christians.

"The expression of sympathy from the great American people and the Hellenese residents in America are a precious support to us in the work for the independence of Crete, and we thank them sincerely

SKOUZTS,
"Minister for Foreign Affairs."

THE PHILIPPINES.

Spanish Forces Are Gaining the Upper Hand.

Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 17.—Northern Pacific steamer Olympia, just arrived, brings Hong Kong and Philippine island advices up to January 20. According to the last Manilla papers, the Spanish forces are steadily subduing the rebellion, but no reference is made to the approaching attack on the rebel stronghold in Cavite.

An order was issued by the governor-general on the 11th of January, the preamble of which recites that large numbers of the loyal inhabitants are desirous of shedding their blood for the king and country, and to assist by their personal service in the restoration of order and the order authorizes the formation of native volunteer corps.

Another proclamation of the 11th of January held out a free pardon to those of the rebel party who had not actually taken part in the movement, and a remission of the death penalty to rebels who surrendered with their arms, and to those who give information as to stores of arms, etc. This offer remained in force until the 23rd of January. A large number of persons are reported to have availed themselves of the offer. An order calling upon all private persons in possession of firearms to surrender the same has given rise to much discussion. In certain specified cases special permission for the possession of arms may be obtained.

Thirteen rebels were shot on January 11. One of them was the well-known Francisco Boxas, and another a military officer. In the case of the latter the execution was preceded by the formality of his military degradation, his sword being broken and thrown on the ground, and his decoration torn off.

The Hong Kong press prints correspondence stating that 325,000 inhabitants have left Bombay on account of the plague.

CECIL RHODES.

People of England Look On Him With Favor.

London, Feb. 22.—The newspapers here comment on the paltry arrangements for a state inquiry of such importance as the one being made by the parliamentary committee into the Jameson raid. It is held in a small, miserable room, and the proceedings are altogether divested of dignity. Moreover, the seating arrangements, putting the witness in the center of his judges, the committee, tends to familiarity. Everything is mean and squalid, ventilation imperfect and a wall is adorned with a big map of Rhodesia.

The feeling of the public certainly appears to be leaning to the side of Col. Cecil Rhodes, whose examination will last another four or five sittings. The inquiry promises to be interminable. Commenting upon President Kruger's big claim for indemnity as a result of the Jameson raid, the speaker says:

"He has a historical precedent, though it is neither creditable nor hopeful, in the claims which the United States advanced in the Alabama dispute."

STARVING CHILDREN DESERTED.

Awful Effects of the Famine in the Bundelkund District.

Agra, Feb. 19.—The special reporter of the Associated Press, who is visiting the famine stricken district of India, has inspected the central native states and Bundelkund district. People from the former have been flocking into British territory for the past month and hundreds of starving persons are meeting the trains and begging as their only chance of subsistance.

The villages are turning the refugees away and many are dying on the rails. Walking from one station to another the correspondent found five dead bodies along the line. Children are deserted and left to forage for themselves.

The Rajahs were the last in starting relief works and then the mischief was already done.

The mortality is awful at Banda, the blackest spot of the Bundelkund province where, out of a population of 700,000, 200,000 are receiving relief. The number is expected to reach 300,000.

HANNA FOR SENATOR.

Republicans Are Well Pleased With the Outcome.

It had been my intention to make no announcement in relation to the action I would take in the matter of an appointment to fill the prospective vacancy in the Ohio representation in the United States Senate until the vacancy actually existed. But on account of the manifest interest of the people and their desire to know what will be done, I deem it best now to make the following statement:

When Senator Sherman resigns to enter the Cabinet of President McKinley, I will appoint to succeed him Hon. Marcus A. Hanna, of Cuyahoga county, to serve until his successor is chosen by the Seventy-Third General Assembly of the state, I trust his action will meet with the approval of the people.

(Signed.) ASA S. BUSHNELL.

Columbus, Feb. 22.—Governor Bushnell announced last evening that upon the receipt of the resignation of Senator Sherman he would appoint Hon. Marcus A. Hanna, of Cleveland, to fill the vacancy. Simultaneously with this he mailed letters to President-elect McKinley, Mr. Hanna, and Senator Sherman notifying them of what he had done.

This early action of the governor's created no great surprise since the great public pressure brought to bear upon him was more than he could withstand, and he yielded whatever personal desire he may have had and acted as he believed to be in keeping with the public good and the best harmony of the party. Yesterday afternoon, in company with Private Secretary Rodgers, the governor went to the executive chamber and there prepared, after a final deliberation, the statement that he later gave out.

The governor believes that the course he has pursued is in full keeping with the best welfare of the party, and that the appointment of Mr. Hanna will obliterate all factional differences that might arise and give the Republicans their full strength in the next state election. Every personal desire and every feeling other than that having in view the party's good has been made subservient. The governor has looked beyond immediate effects and weighed results only by the future. He believed Mr. Hanna's appointment the best thing that could be done—the best thing for the party—and he appointed him.

Governor Bushnell was seen at his rooms in the Chittenden last evening shortly after he had given out his announcement.

"Well, governor, you have finally decided the matter," was said to him.

"Yes," he replied, and he looked relieved as he said it. "I reached a decision to-day and have given it out."

"You believe, of course, that the appointment of Mr. Hanna was the best thing that could be done?"

"Yes, that seemed to me the best possible course to pursue. There were many things entering into it and I have given them all careful consideration. I acted as my best judgment dictated and hope that my course will meet with the approval of the party."

"Mr. Hanna's appointment you believe to be the best to prevent any ill feeling entering into the party?"

"Yes, at this time I do. He was urged by the administration and by many men both in the Senate and out. In the Senate he can do valuable work and will be an acquisition to that body. I feel that I have acted for the best interests of all and that it will keep the best of feeling in the party and prevent any discord or ill will."

"There was nothing beyond this entering into the appointment?"

"No, nothing at all. I simply acted as I believed for the best."

The governor had nothing to say more than this except to repeat his hope that the party would be pleased at his action and regard it as coming from the dictates of an earnest desire to act in harmony with them.

SEEN FROM WASHINGTON.

General Satisfaction Expressed by Ohio Republicans.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The Leader correspondent wired his paper the following last night:

News of the announcement by Governor Bushnell that he would appoint Hon. M. A. Hanna Senator upon the receipt of Senator Sherman's resignation was received here late last evening. It created the liveliest interest among those who heard it, and very general satisfaction was expressed that the governor had reached such a decision.

As reflected in the members of congress, the opinion of Republicans throughout the country was strongly in favor of the appointment of Mr. Hanna. He is recognized by the people as a man of powerful individuality and great business and executive ability. The distinction he won not only in this country, but throughout the world, by his masterly conduct of the McKinley campaign riveted attention upon him, and the demand has been universal that he should have a prominent part in promoting the success of an administration which he had done so much to insure.

Among those with whom the Leader correspondent has talked of the proposed appointment, the opinion is unanimous that Governor Bushnell has reached a right conclusion and that, by it, he has materially strengthened himself and the Republican party in Ohio and the country.

FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

Washington, Feb. 3.—The following residents of Ohio were recently granted pensions:

Washington, Feb. 18.—The passage of the immigration bill was the principal business of the senate yesterday. The measure now goes to the President.

House—The house passed a bill that opens to use and occupation under the right of way act of March 3, 1891 all the reservoir sites received by the geological survey. There are 138 of these sites scattered throughout the arid country and this act will enable them to be put to practical use by individuals or corporations.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 19.—The house yesterday by a vote of 197 to 91 reversed the finding of a majority of the elections committee, and decided the contested election case of N. T. Hopkins vs. J. M. Kendall, from the Tenth Kentuck district, in favor of the Republican contestant.

The conference reports on the bills to pension Major General Julius M. Stahel at $75 and he widow of Major Gen. Stowe at $50 were adopted.

Senate—The open session of the senate lasted only twenty minutes; during which minor business was transacted. Then the senate spent six hours in executive session devoted to the consideration of the nomination of Hon. C. F. Amidon, to be district judge of North Dakota, and of the Anglo-American arbitration treaty. Amidon was confirmed.

It has been the intention of the friends of the treaty to make an extraordinary effort to secure, if possible is disposition before adjournment, but their plans were frustrated by senators who were more anxious to secure action upon nominations.

Washington, Feb. 20.—A very spirited debate on the general subject of payment of claims found to be due against the United States was indulged in by the house yesterday during the consideration of the general deficiency appropriation bill.

Without completing the consideration of the bill, the house, at 5 o'clock took a recess until 8 o'clock. The evening session was consumed in roll calls on points of no quorum and motions to adjourn, and an adjournment was finally taken at 10 o'clock without any bills having been acted upon.

Senate—The senate indulged in an eight hours' debate over the arbitration treaty, but came to no conclusion in spite of the efforts of Senator Sherman to secure a vote.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The House yesterday passed the general deficiency appropriation bill and began the consideration of the last of the money bills, that providing for the naval establishment.

A resolution was adopted requesting the secretary of the interior to furnish Congress the report of the inspectors on the pine and agricultural lands of the Red Lake Indian reservation in Minnesota.

Senate—The Senate spent its first hour yesterday in listening to Washington's farewell address, read by Mr. Daniel (Va.) and then turned its attention to the Indian appropriation bill. It involved a contest over sectarian Indian schools. The clause directing temporary contracts with these schools, when no government schools were available, was agreed to 51 to 8. A provision was added declaring it to be the settled policy of the government hereafter to make no appropriations whatever for the support of sectarian schools. The Indian bill is still under consideration.

TICK! TICK! TICK!

The Story of a Happy Home as the Clock Saw It.

TICKS THAT TELL A TALE.

One evening he brought home a little clock.

It was only an ordinary nickel alarm-clock. But there was an old, green, mildewed, moss-grown water-wheel painted on its face. It was a common, practical, every-day article, but that little touch of art—that old, mildewed water-wheel on its face—gave to the gift a touch of sentiment. So she put the little clock, not in the kitchen or in the dining-room or the bed chamber, but in the "best room." She put it on the mantel-piece over the fire-place. And there it ticked and ticked and ticked the days away.

During the days when she would sit and sew or knit in the "best room" she would look up and see the little clock, with its old, mildewed water-wheel and think of him. Its tick—tick—tick—became the music of love and home and happiness to her. The sight of the old, moss-grown water-wheel brought up to her pleasant pictures of her old home, and happy hopes in her new.

Tick—tick—tick!

Thus the little clock kept track of the flying minutes in the little home. It ticked off the minutes of happiness. It ticked off the minutes of love. It called stop—stop—stop!—when there was little disagreements and quarrels.

Tick—tick—tick!

There was a hurrying of women's feet and the little clock on the mantel piece listened and heard. There was a nervous treading to and fro of a man's footsteps in the "best room." And the little clock on the mantel-piece heard and listened and ticked on. There was a ring at the door-bell and the sound of footsteps coming up the stairs softly. And then there was the smiling face of the old family doctor as he peered into the "best room" and nodded his head and said, "All's well!" And the little clock on the mantel-piece ticked on in echo to the pulse of a new life.

Tick—tick—tick!

Then followed happy days in the little home. There were new eyes, wide open and curious, that stared at the little clock on the mantel-piece, and chubby fingers that grabbed at the moss-grown wheel on its face. There was childish laughter, and in a little while the patter of baby feet.

And then, one day, "she" didn't sit in the accustomed corner in the "best room" and listen to the tick of the little clock on the mantel piece and look at the old, mildewed water-wheel and build castles in the air for baby. The tick—tick—tick! of the little clock resounded in an empty room. And again there was hurrying of women's feet and rings at the door-bell. And then the curtains in the "best room" were pulled down and shut out the light that used to glisten on the spray that fell from the mildewed water-wheel.

Tick—tick—tick!

The chair in the corner of the "best room" was empty, and he walked back and forth—back and forth—and listened alone to the mournful tick—tick—tick! of the little clock on the mantel piece. And the days all seemed to be rainy days, and no creak of a rocking chair responded to the tick on the mantel and the mossy green on the old water-wheel grew fainter and fainter and faded into a dull blur of black.

To-day on thousands of mantel pieces little clocks are ticking away the few remaining minutes in the lives of loving wives and prattling babes—lives that might have lived on to make happy homes—but for a little neglect or a little ignorance.

Will it always be thus? Will women never learn the supreme importance of their womanly health? Will they never learn that they cannot be happy, healthy and capable wives and the competent mothers of robust children while they suffer from weakness and disease of the delicate organs that make wifehood and motherhood possible, and upon which the perpetuation of the race depends?

There are thousands of "best rooms" where the clock on the mantel piece ticks the mournful cadence of death, that might be radiant with the smile of a loving wife and mother but for this ignorance or neglect. If women will only learn, and teach their daughters, the supreme importance of keeping the distinctly feminine organism in a perfectly vigorous and healthy condition, this ever-recurring tragedy will soon be a story of the past. If women who suffer from weakness and disease of these delicate organs will write to Dr. R. V. Pierce, at Buffalo, N. Y., they will learn that in order to recover and maintain their health in this respect, it is not generally necessary to submit to the humiliating "examinations" and "local applications" insisted upon by physicians. In writing confidentially to Dr. Pierce, a woman places her case, without charge, in the hands of a skillful specialist, for thirty years chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, at Buffalo, N. Y.—one of the leading medical institutions in the world, with a staff of nearly a score of eminent practitioners. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a marvelous remedy for ailing women. It acts directly on the delicate organs that bear the burdens of maternity. It makes them strong and healthy. It cures all weakness and disease and gives vigor virility and elasticity. It prepares for healthy wifehood and safe, capable motherhood. Taken during the squeamish period of anticipation, it banishes the usual discomforts and makes baby's coming easy and almost painless. It insures a robust and healthy child. It tones a woman's nerves and enables and assists nature to build up her general health. All good druggists sell the "Favorite Prescription" and honest ones will not try to palm off some inferior preparation as "just as good."

The testimonials of hundreds of women who have used the "Favorite Prescription" are printed by permission in Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser. This great work used to be sold at $1.50 a copy. Now it is FREE. It is the best home medical work ever published. It is written in every-day English, with no confusing technical terms. It contains 1008 pages and over 300 illustrations. Several chapters are devoted to the reproductive physiology of women. **If you want a paper-covered copy, send 21 one-cent stamps, to cover cost of mailing only, to the World's Dispensary** Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y. For a French cloth binding, beautifully stamped, send 10 cents extra—31 cents in all.

THE NEW CABINET.

President McKinley Has Selected His Official Family.

Chicago, Feb. 20.—A Washington special to the Times-Herald says: President McKinley's Cabinet is now complete.

With the acceptance of the postmaster generalship by Mr. Gary, of Maryland, and of the secretaryship of the interior by Col. J. J. McCook, of New York, the Cabinet-building task of the President-elect is finished.

One of Major McKinley's friends, who has just returned from Canton, brings with him the following authentic list of the McKinley Cabinet, as it has been finally decided upon:

Secretary of State—John Sherman, of Ohio.

Secretary of the Treasury—Lyman J. Gage, of Illinois.

Secretary of War—Russell A. Alger, of Michigan.

Secretary of the Navy—John D. Long, of Massachusetts.

Attorney-General—Joseph McKenna, of California.

Secretary of the Interior—J. J. McCook, of New York.

Postmaster-General—James A. Gary, of Maryland.

Secretary of Agriculture—James Wilson, of Iowa.

All these selections, excepting those of Col. McCook and Mr. Gary, were known before to-day.

The news that Mr. McCook and Mr. Gary had been invited to seats in the Cabinet and had accepted was received to-day by Senators and members of Congress with many expressions of satisfaction.

McKenna Slated a Long Time.

Judge McKenna's selection for a seat in the Cabinet was decided on two months ago, although the particular post which he was to fill was left for a future determination. At first he was supposed to be slated for the interior department.

There being some fear that the fact of his being a Catholic might rouse criticism from those interested in non-sectarian Indian schools, it is generally remarked here that Major McKinley, with his usual wisdom, has placed the right man in the right place by making Judge McKenna attorney general and putting Col. McCook in the interior department. In this way he gets for attorney general a man of great learning and ability, fresh from the bench, without any recent professional entanglements, and hailing, moreover, from a section of the country which is opposed to trusts and monopolies, while for secretary of the interior he secures the services of one of the leading lawyers of the east, a bright, shrewd, resourceful man, who will carry into office none of the traditions nor prejudices of the west in dealing with such troublesome questions as lands and Indians.

In the selection of Col. McCook the President-elect has, it is believed, solved the New York problem in a way which will be satisfactory to everyone. He has never held a public office, and while he is a personal friend of Senator-elect Platt, has never been a political follower of that gentleman, nor, indeed, a member of any political faction.

HON. JAMES A. GARY.

Tenderd a Cabinet Place Friday by Major McKinley.

Canton, O., Feb. 19.—At 1:30 o'clock this afternoon Hon. James A. Gary, of Baltimore, left the private room at the McKinley house, where he had been in consultation with the President-elect for several hours, and gave the following statement to The Associated Press: "Governor McKinley has tendered me a portfolio in his cabinet. While it is not definitely settled which one, I am assured that it will be one which I can accept."

AUSTRIAN FECUNDITY.

Woman Thirty-Nine Years Old Has Thirty-Two Children.

Vienna, Feb. 18.—At the next national congress of women in this city the guest of honor will be Madame Schipperman, who has distinguished herself, although but thirty-nine years of age, by presenting to the state no less than thirty-two children, six being girls and twenty-six boys. This record, moreover, it is thought, will be added to by the time congress meets this fall, and the good wife lives in hopes that she will yet equal the record of her mother, who had 38 children to her credit. The present Madame Schipperman's family were brought into the world in this order: First birth four, second three, third four, fourth two, fifth three, sixth two, seventh three, eighth three, ninth two, tenth three, eleventh three. The entire family is living and in the best of health, although one and all of the children were nursed by the mother, who is a daily victim of epileptic fits.

DUESTROW'S BRAIN.

The Doctors Find It in an Abnormal Condition.

St. Louis, Feb. 18.—Owing to the great difference of opinion as to the true condition of mind of Dr. Arthur Duestrow, the murderer of his wife and child, who was hanged at Union yesterday, a post-mortem of his brain was made yesterday by a number of specialists. Dr. Lewis A. Tandy had charge of the operation of laying bare the brain. He was assisted by Dr. A. H. Schott, the family physician of the Duestrow's, and a number of other physicians who had testified at the legal investigation into the murderer's sanity were present. The examination resulted in a conviction among the physicians that Duestrow's brain was in an abnormal condition. A careful microscopic examination will follow the results as they appear will be given to the public.

Thos. Slater has a message for every man on page 8. Don't fail to read it.

THE CUBAN WAR.

NEWSPAPER FAKE.

Another War Scare Started From Cuban Sources.

Havana, Feb. 23.—General Fitzhugh Lee, the United States consul-general here, has personally handed to the correspondent of The Associated Press in this city, a written statement saying that he has not resigned, thus definitely setting at rest the contrary statement made in New York.

DR. RUIZ DEAD.

Fate of an American Captured by Spanish.

Havana, Cuba, Feb. 20.—Dr. Richard Ruiz, a naturalized American citizen, was found dead in his cell in the Guanabacoa jail Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. There is little doubt that he was beaten to death by his jailers at Fondeviela's orders.

Dr. Ruiz, who studied and practiced dentistry in Philadelphia for many years, was arrested about 10 days ago and charged with having helped Aranguren's band to derail a train some weeks ago, when two Spanish officers were captured. The charge was of the flimsiest character, as every one in Guanabacoa knew that Ruiz attended strictly to his business and took no interest in political or revolutionary movements.

The Spanish authorities, as usual, failed to notify Consul General Lee of the step they had taken. He learned of it only from unofficial sources. Of course the only crime of which Ruiz was guilty was American citizenship, and for this he has now been done to death in a most brutal and inhuman manner. When the 72 hours had elapsed during which, by Spanish law prisoners may be kept in accessible. General Lee demanded that a lawyer and a representative of the consulate be admitted to see the prisoner. The State Department was informed of the situation by General Lee, but he received no reply. General Lee was informed this morning of the facts and has left to investigate matters. General Ahumada has not yet sent General Lee the requisite permit, and though three urgent cablegrams have been sent by him to the State Department the proper instructions which the situation demands are not yet forthcoming.

Whether instructed or not, General Lee will take all the steps which the situation demands, and perform his duty to his fellow-citizen.

Our citizens here are in a state of panic and mortification, and I hear on every side: "Oh, for one minute of Mr. Secretary Marcy, or the man who wrote the Heinzleman note."

In defiance of law and treaty stipulations the Spanish authorities held Ruiz confined in a noisome cell without a window for 300 hours and then murdered him.

GOMEZ OUTGENERALD,

If This Story of the War is True.

Havana, via Key West, Fla., Feb. 18.—If the official reports are correct the insurgent army under General Maximo Gomez has been divided into small corps and Gomez himself is in full retreat before the continued advance of Captain-General Weyler.

Dispatches from Ciego de Avila say that the insurgent commander-in-chief, with four thousand men has re-crossed the military line in the province of Puerto Principe, extending from Jucaro to Moron, and that he is going eastward through Puerto Principe and in the direction of the capital of that province, also called Puerto Principe.

The statements from the Spanish headquarters are even more explicit. It is announced that the insurgents have retreated to the mountains and to the woods before the Spanish advance, and that from Sancti Spiritus Captain-General Weyler will push forward his columns to Moron, Ciego de Avila and Jucaro, thus seemingly sweeping across the island with a large force and driving the enemy before him towards the eastern part of the island.

A DIFFERENT STORY.

Insurgent Side of the Gomez Campaign.

Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 19.—A special to the Citizen from Key West says: Private information has been received in this city of the whereabouts of Gen. Gomez. He has succeeded in sliding by Gen. Weyler and is now between him and Havana. Gomez gave the command for an advance with strict orders that any man that struck a match or smoked would be court-martialed. He then advanced on the Moron trocha in the eastern end of the island with 5,000 cavalry and 10,000 infantry.

He advanced on the fort at midnight, and when he saw he was discovered by the Spaniards, who fired on him, he ordered the cavalry to charge. They swooped down on the fort and captured it and the whole army went through the trocha. All of the arms and ammunition of the fort were captured. The army then continued the march and was encamped at Veguite when the news was sent to this city by a courier. Gomez's order in taking the fort was to use the machetes only and the cavalry made a gallant fight.

Zertucha Not Murdered.

Havana, Feb. 19.—Members of the family of Dr. Zertucha, who was Maceo's physician, and who accompanied the insurgent leader at the time of his death, deny the report cabled from Madrid to the effect that Zertucha has been assassinated. They say that Dr. Zertucha was alive and well two days ago at Melena Del Sur.

CUBANS WIN.

In a Skirmish With One of Gomez's Bands.

Cincinnati, Feb. 20.—A special to the Commercial Tribune from Havana says: A severe fight occurred between some of Gen. Gomez's bands and a detachment of Havana volunteers from Weyler's vanguard, 56 miles east of Santa Clara, the insurgents defeating the Spanish troops and capturing one piece of artillery and 40 men. The insurgents waited until the Spanish troops had entered a trap and then they fired from all sides, being so well concealed that the Spanish could not reply with effect. Seeing his men thus slaughtered, the Spanish officer gave them command to retreat, but it became a rout and hundreds of them were shot down, the Cubans following them with an "El machete" charge. Spanish official reports state that the Cubans lost 200 and the troops but five. The truth is that it was one of the worst defeats sustained by any Spanish column and with the greatest loss to the Spaniards, considering the number of men engaged and that Weyler was terribly enraged on hearing of it.

All men should read Thos. Slater's offer on page 8.

Splendid Collection of Choice VEGETABLE and FLOWER

SEEDS

Absolutely Given Away to Our Subscribers.

By special arrangement with MESSRS. MAY & CO., ST. PAUL, MINN., we will send postpaid, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS of Vegetable and Flower Seeds to all who subscribe for the WEEKLY BLADE.

These collections are put up for the exclusive use of the WEEKLY BLADE. Many of the varieties offered are new and choice, being introduced for the first time this season, and retail at 10c, 15c, and 25c per packet. Other sorts are standard varieties which have stood the test in all sections and proven thoroughly reliable. PLEASE READ OUR OFFERS CAREFULLY.

THE FOLLOWING COLLECTIONS SENT POSTPAID:

OFFER NO. 1.
The Farm Garden.

This collection includes the standard varieties of Vegetable Seeds which are adapted to all sections of the United States. To any one sending $1 for the Weekly Blade one year we will send this collection free, post paid. This package if bought at retail would cost $1.40.

BEAN, R. P. Golden Wax .... $ .10
ONION, Globe Danvers .... .05
PEA, N. W. Premier .... .10
TOMATO, The Acme .... .05
CABBAGE, Surehead .... .05
CORN, Early Minnesota .... .05
CARROT, Danvers .... .05
RADISH, Rosy Queen .... .10
CUCUMBER, Garden Gem .... .15
LETTUCE, Early Simpson .... .05
TURNIP, Purple Top .... .05
SQUASH, Sibley .... .05
WATERMELON, Ice King .... .10
PUMPKIN, Connecticut .... .05
PARSNIP, Hollow Crown .... .05
RADISH, Long Scarlet .... .05
RUTABAGA, Shamrock .... .05
MUSK MELON, Minnesota Perfection .... .10
PARSLEY, Plain .... .05
BEET, Market Gardener .... .10
Retail price $1.40
Packet alone to subscribers, 55c, postpaid.

OFFER NO. 2.
Flower Garden.

To any one sending us $1.00 for a year's subscription to the Weekly Blade we will send, postpaid, the following charming collection of Flower Seeds. These are all free flowering annuals, and will produce a beautiful display of flowers during the summer months. Cultural directions on every packet. The regular retail price of this assortment is $1.30.

ASTERS, German Mixed .... $ .10
PANSY, German Show .... .10
NASTURTIUM, Tall Mixed .... .05
POPPIES, Paeonia Mixed .... .10
GAILLARDIA, Mixed .... .05
GODETIAS, Giant Mixed .... .10
MIGNONETTE, Sweet .... .05
PETUNIA, Imperial Mixed .... .10
ZINNIAS, Giant Mixed .... .10
SWEET PEA, California Mixed .... .10
FOUR O'CLOCKS .... .05
PINKS, Double China .... .05
MORNING GLORIES .... .05
WILD FLOWER GARDEN, a collection of different varieties .... .15
PANSY, Swanley Blue .... .15
Retail price $1.30
Packet alone to subscribers, 50c, postpaid.

OFFER NO. 3.
Our Novelty Package.

To any one sending $1.00 for a year's subscription to the Weekly Blade we will send, postpaid, this collection free. In this assortment will be found many rare varieties of Vegetable and Flower Seeds of late introduction, some of which retail at 10c, 15c, and 25c per packet. These late introductions are vast improvements over the common sorts, and consequently more valuable. Retail price of this collection is $2.25.

PEAS, May's Sunol .... $ .10
BEET, Cheltenham, Favorite .... .10
CUCUMBER, Early Prize .... .10
CABBAGE, Surprise .... .15
ONION, Red Wonder .... .15
MUSK MELON, Pickaniny .... .15
CORN, Early Windsor .... .10
RADISH, Queen of Market .... .10
TOMATO, Shenandoah .... .15
PANSY, Star Mixed .... .25
SWEET PEAS, Gold Mixed .... .10
PINK, Royal Banner .... .15
GIANT SWEET WILLIAM .... .10
VERBENA, Mammoth Mixed .... .15
NASTURTIUM, Imp. Mixed .... .10
PETUNIA, Rose Queen .... .10
PANSY, Harlequin .... .20
Retail price $2.25
Packet alone to subscribers, 65c, postpaid.

OFFER NO. 4.
Our Early Kitchen Garden.

This package includes the earliest Vegetables of the different classes, and is a splendid collection for a private garden. To any one sending $1.00 for the Weekly Blade one year, we will send this collection, postpaid. The regular retail price of this assortment is $1.05.

CABBAGE, Early Summer .... $ .05
BEET, Early Blood .... .05
PEAS, N. W. Premier .... .10
LETTUCE, Early Challenge .... .15
CUCUMBER, Early Frame .... .05
TOMATO, First of All .... .10
RADISH, Early White Turnip .... .05
ONION, Early Barletta .... .05
CORN, Shaker's Early .... .05
CARROT, Early Horn .... .05
MUSK MELON, Hackensack .... .05
WATER MELON, Safeguard .... .15
BEAN, Early Refugee .... .05
TURNIP, Early Snowball .... .05
SPINACH, Long Standing .... .05
Retail price $1.05
Packet alone to subscribers, 45c, postpaid.

OFFER NO. 5.
Our Combination Package.

This package, as will be noticed, includes a grand assortment of both Flower and Vegetable Seeds. In some of the packets are several different varieties of the same classes, so that in most instances the seeds will produce either a varied assortment of Flowers or some choice vegetables for early, medium and late use. This collection will be sent, postpaid, to any one sending $1.00 for one year's subscription to the Weekly Blade.

21 Varieties of Vegetable Seeds.
18 Kinds of Flower Seeds.

1 PKT. MIXED TOMATOES—In this packet are the following three splendid tomatoes: Early Ruby, The Acme, Shenandoah .... $ .15
1 PKT. STAR MIXED WATERMELONS—This packet contains seeds of the Ice King, Giant Southern, Florida Favorite .... .15
1 PKT. PUMPKINS, MIXED—Seed of four good varieties .... .10
1 PKT. RADISHES, MIXED—This mixture is made up of four splendid varieties .... .10
1 PKT. LETTUCE, MIXED—A mixture of five curled and head varieties, early and late .... .10
1 PKT. CUCUMBER, Garden Gem, the best for slicing .... .15
1 PKT. BEET, Lightning, early turnip shaped variety .... .10
1 PKT. PEAS, May's Midsummer, valuable for private use .... .15
1 PKT. PANSIES, Prized Mixed, a celebrated collection made up from the following four varieties: Snow Queen, German Show, King of Yellows, Blue Prince .... .20
1 PKT. ASTERS, Gem Mixed—This includes Snow White and Blue Danube .... .15
1 PKT. SWEET PEAS, English Mixed, an assortment of 10 kinds .... .10
1 PKT. PETUNIAS, Imperial Mixed—In this packet are the two famous varieties, Moonlight and Countess of Ellesmere .... .10
Retail price $1.55
Packet alone to subscribers, 50c, postpaid.

OFFER NO. 6—FLORAL FAVORITES.
Pansies, Poppies and Sweet Peas.

The following collection we have made up of the popular floral favorites of the past few years. No one who loves flowers should fail to have a bed of Pansies, Poppies and Sweet Peas. We will mail the entire collection, postpaid, to any person sending us $1.00 for one year's subscription to the Weekly Blade.

1 OZ. SWEET PEA, Grace May, pure white, very fine .... $ .20
1 OZ. SWEET PEA, Minnie Keepers, delicate heliotrope and lavender .... .10
1 OZ. SWEET PEAS, Firefly, bright scarlet showy .... .10
1 OZ. SWEET PEAS, Captain of the Blues, rich blue .... .10
1 OZ. SWEET PEAS, California Giant Mixed, an assortment of colors .... .20
1 PKT. PANSY, Swanley Blue, very light blue .... .15
1 PKT. PANSY, Faust, black .... .10
1 PKT. PANSY, Improved Snow Queen, pure white .... .10
1 PKT. PANSY, Ocean Spray, blue, edged white .... .10
1 PKT. PANSY, Royal Mixed, large flowers of all colors .... .10
1 PKT. POPPY, Danebrog, scarlet with white spots .... .05
1 PKT. POPPY, Shirley, a beautiful strain of light colors .... .10
1 PKT. POPPY, Paeonia Flowered, mammoth blossoms .... .10
1 PKT. POPPY, Snowdrift, large double white flowers .... .10
Retail price $1.85
Packet alone to subscribers, 60c, postpaid.

Full Cultural Directions on Every Packet of Seed. Address all Letters to

Be sure to mention number of our offer.

THE WEEKLY BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO.

SHEET MUSIC

We have made arrangements with one of the largest music houses on this continent to furnish our readers with SIX PIECES, full size, complete and unabridged SHEET MUSIC for FIFTEEN CENTS.

This great sheet music offer is, without the least doubt, the greatest value for the least money ever before offered by any newspaper in the whole history of journalism. The quality of this sheet music is the very best. The composers' names are household words all over the continent. None but high price copyright pieces or most popular reprints. It is printed on regular sheet music paper, from new plates made from large, clear type, and is in every way first-class and worthy of a place in your home.

15 cts 6-SIX-6 PIECES 15 cts

DON'T FORGET That the price you have to pay is only Fifteen Cents. That for this you get Six Pieces, not one. That the quality of this sheet music is the best. That the music is sent to any address, postpaid. That all the little details are up to the standard. That the vocal pieces have full piano accompaniments. That the instrumental pieces give the bass as well as melody. That this is sheet music equal to any published. ALSO, DON'T FORGET to make your selection at once, to send us the order, and to tell your friends about this great SHEET MUSIC OFFER.

No.	Voice and Piano or Organ.	
1.	Annie's Love Duet	Jos. Winters
4.	Esther's Lullaby. Slumber song	G. Mosher
6.	Thinking of Home and Mother	A. M. Cohen
8.	Flossie. Waltz song	A. M. Cohen
10.	The Sweetest Song	L. Danes
12.	The Bridge. Words by Longfellow	Carew
14.	An Outcast. Character song	J. J. Fritz
16.	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	N. Kneass
18.	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	F. Eplett
19.	Keep the Horseshoe Over the Door	Skelly
23.	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
25.	Lurline, Do You Think of Me Now?	H. M. Estabrooke
27.	Ave Maria (Cavalleria Rusticana)	Mascagni
28.	Juanita. Ballad	T. G. May
30.	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	F. H. Cowen
32.	Sweet Long Ago, The	H. M. Estabrooke
34.	By Normandie's Blue Hills	H. Trotere
36.	For the Colors	H. L. Wilson
38.	True to the Last	S. Adams
40.	Love Ever Faithful	P. Bucalossi
42.	Come When Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
44.	Beautiful Face of Jennie Knott	Reissmann
46.	That Word Was "Hope"	W. Nutting
48.	Little Boy Blue	H. H. Estabrooke
50.	Easter Eve. Sacred	C. Gounod
52.	Mother's Cry, A	P. Adriance
54.	Musical Dialogue. Duet	E. M. Hammond
56.	Precious Treasure	L. Weller
58.	When the Roses Are Blooming Again	J. P. Skelly
60.	Old Glory. National air	J. H. Woods
62.	Your Mother's Love for You	K. Koppi
64.	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English song	
66.	For You We Are Praying at Home	H. M. Estabrooke
68.	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	C. E. Casey
70.	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	H. M. Estabrooke
72.	Ellaline	H. K. Betts
74.	In Sweet September	H. Temple
76.	My Home by the Old Mill	M. J. O'Halloran
78.	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	H. M. Estabrooke
80.	See Those Living Pictures	R. Guth
82.	My Old Kentucky Home	S. C. Foster
84.	What Are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	S. Glover
86.	When Winter Days Have Gone	J. H. Trayne
88.	Shall I Ever See My Mother's Face Again?	P. Adriance
90.	On the Beach	F. C. Robinson
92.	Cow Bells, The	J. E. Grimm

No.	Piano or Organ.	
1.	Catherine Waltzes	D. W. Babb
3.	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Fr. Liszt
5.	Silvery Waves. Variations	A. P. Wyman
7.	Visions of Light Waltz	S. G. Cook
9.	Our Little Agnes Waltz	G. M. Gregoire
11.	American Liberty March	S. G. Cook
13.	General Smith's March	J. T. Martin
15.	The Old Oaken Bucket. Variations	C. W. Durkee
17.	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	J. Rosas
19.	Boston Commandery March	T. H. Carter
21.	Frolic of the Frogs Waltz	J. J. Watson
23.	In Hoc Signo Vinces. K. T. March	M. M. Dow
24.	Over the Waves Waltzes	J. Rosas
26.	Village Parade Quickstep	T. F. Allen
29.	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	C. D. Blake
31.	Song of the Voyager	I. J. Paderewski
33.	Corn Flower Waltzes	C. Coote, Jr.
35.	Black Hawk Waltz	M. K. Walsh
37.	Battle of Waterloo	G. Anderson
39.	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische	A. M. Cohen
41.	Crack 4 March	G. Ashton
43.	Leap Year Schottische	O. Kahn
45.	March Winds Galop	D. Mansfield
47.	Cleveland's Second Term March	L. C. Nolan
49.	Full of Ginger March	W. Nutting
51.	Blue Bird Echo Waltz	M. Morrison
53.	Greeting of Spring	C. Schultze
55.	Memorial Day March	L. Hewitt
57.	Twilight Echoes	F. A. Jewell
59.	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
61.	Morning Star Waltz	F. B. Zahn
63.	McKinley & Hobart March	J. W. Turner
65.	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	L. C. Nolan
67.	Bryan & Sewall March	L. C. Nolan
69.	Flirting in the Starlight Waltz	A. de Lasaide
71.	Crystal Dew Waltz	C. W. Durkee
73.	Storm Mazurka	W. T. Keefer
75.	Scherzettino, op. 48	A. Guilmant
77.	Fifth Nocturne	J. Leybach
79.	Please Do Waltz	C. W. Durkee
81.	Coming from the Races Galop	J. W. Wheeler
83.	Orvetta Waltz	E. B. Spenser
85.	Winsome Grace. Morceau	T. H. Howe
87.	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
89.	Morning Dew, op. 18	S. Smith
91.	Estella, Air de Ballet	F. G. Robinson

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WASHINGTON.

CONGRESS'S LAST DAYS.

Possibility That Some Bills May Not Pass.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The situation as to the appropriation bills is beginning to give considerable uneasiness to members of the House and Senate. A good deal of opposition has developed in the Senate as to certain features of the District of Columbia appropriation bill, and Senator Hill has indicated a determination to prevent the passage of the bill in its present form. One feature of the bill to which he is especially antagonistic relates to the contract for electric lights in the District of Columbia, and he has indicated very strongly that he will not consent to the passage of the bill in its present form. This causes many of the members of the appropriation committee considerable uneasiness. The delay which he and others who are opposed to these features of the bill may cause by a lengthy discussion is liable to endanger not only this measure, but others of the appropriation bills which are still in extremely backward state as relates to the Senate.

No more than four of the entire list of appropriation bills have yet become laws, and the Senate committee on appropriations has not yet taken up some of the most important of them for consideration. The executive sessions of the Senate which have demanded the presence of every member during the important discussions which have been in progress have delayed consideration of the bills by the committee, and those who are accustomed to seeing a race against time in the closing days of a Congress with reference to appropriation bills say that the situation is an unusually grave one, and that the failure of some of the bills is not unlikely. A statement recently prepared by an official of one of the appropriation committees shows that the appropriations for 1896 aside from what are known as the "Permanant appropriations" amount to about $384,000,000 against $158,000,000 in 1877, this having considerably more than doubled in 20 years. The population in that time has increased about 53 per cent., so that the increase in appropriations has much more than kept up with the increase in population. This is largely due, however, to the increase in pensions and expenditures of the Postoffice Department. The pension bill, which in 1877 was only $30,000,000, is now $141,000,000. The postoffice appropriation bill which in 1877 was only $35,000,000 is now $90,000,000. The naval bill, which in 1877 was less than $13,000,000, is now $30,000,000, and has increased by reason of the policy of building up a strong navy. These four items, the growth of the Postoffice Department, the construction of a navy, the river and harbor appropriations under the contract system, and the very large increases in pensions account for the very remarkable growth in the appropriations in the past 20 years.

THE IMMIGRATION BILL.

Passed Congress and Gone to the President.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The Immigration bill now goes to the President, the last legislative step having been taken in the Senate yesterday by an agreement to the conference report on the bill. Strong opposition was made to the report, but on the final vote the friends of the measure rallied a small majority, the vote being yeas 34, nays 31.

The bill as passed, extends the immigration restrictions against "all persons physically capable and over 16 years of age who cannot read and write the English language or some other language; but a person not so able to read and write who is over 50 years of age and who is the parent or grandparent of a qualified immigrant over 21 years of age and capable of supporting such parent or grandparent may accompany such immigrant, or such a parent or grandparent may be sent for and come to join the family of a child or grandchild over 21 years of age similarly qualified and capable, and a wife or minor child not so able to read and write may accompany or be sent for and come to join the husband or parent similarly qualified and capable."

For the purpose of testing the immigrant's literacy he is compelled to read and write from 20 to 25 words of the United States Constitution. Aside from these extensions of the present law the bill inaugurates a new system of restricting immigration from border countries and designed to apply principally to immigration from Canada.

The provisions are as follows: "Section 4—That it shall hereafter be unlawful for any male alien who has not in good faith made his declaration before the proper court of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, or to come regularly or habitually into the United States by land or water for the purpose of engaging in any mechanical trade or manual labor, for wages or salary, returning from time to time to a foreign country.

"Section 5—That it shall be unlawful for any person, partnership, company or corporation knowingly to employ any alien coming into the United States in violation of the next preceding section of this act, provided, that provisions of this act shall not apply to the employment of sailors, deck hands or other employes of vessels, or railroad train hands, such as conductors, engineers, brakemen, firemen or baggagemen, whose duties require them to pass over the frontier to reach the terminal of their runs, or to boatmen or guides on the lakes and rivers on the northern border of the United States.

A violation of these sections is made a misdemeanor punishable by fine up to $500 or imprisonment up to one year, or both.

A special provision exempts from the operation of the law persons arriving from Cuba during the continuance of the present disorder there. The law is to take effect July 1 next.

GEN. PLEASONTON.

He Was One of the Nation's Great Men, but Died a Recluse.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Many brave men throughout the country will sorrow to learn of the death of Gen. Pleasanton in this city this morning. For the past seven years Gen. Pleasanton had lived an almost hermit's life in Washington, not moving out of his apartments and denying himself to all persons save a few of his most intimate friends. He felt that he had not been well treated by the government after his distinguished services in the war, and this, together with ill-health, preyed upon his mind and made him rather eccentric. His only attendants were his private secretary, Mr. Murphy, and Henrietta Roane, a faithful colored nurse, who were with him when he passed away.

General Pleasanton was born in the District of Columbia and served throughout the Mexican war. He was brevetted for distinguished gallantry at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. He became a major in the regular army in 1862, a year later becoming a brigadier-general in the volunteer service. As a cavalry commander he was eminently capable and brilliant. He rendered distinguished services at Antietam and against Price in the campaign in Missouri, but his most distinguished service, perhaps, was at Gettysburg, where he was the chief of Meade's cavalry forces. It was claimed by many of Gen. Pleasanton's old army friends that he really saved the battle of Gettysburg by bringing into play his light Shrapnel batteries against Pickett's advance in the famous charge across the wheat field, while many of the heavy Union batteries were inactive on Little Round Top.

General Pleasanton resigned from service soon after the war. His private means were not great, and he was a chronic invalid from injuries received in his active campaigns. He was appointed major in the regular army by a special act of Congress in 1888, and immediately placed upon the retired list, but he felt the rank accorded him to be a slight. He thereafter lived the life of a recluse, and up to three weeks ago he would not even have the attendance of a physician. Dropsy, the effects of wounds and age and the grip, caused the end.

It was the wish of his army friends that Gen. Pleasanton should be buried with appropriate honors at Arlington, but his last directions to his nurse were that he should be buried with the other members of his family in the Congressional cemetery. This wish probably will be respected.

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FOREST RESERVATIONS.

Thirteen New Tracts Set Aside by the President.

Washington, Feb. 23.—President Cleveland celebrated the 165th anniversary of the birth of George Washington by issuing thirteen executive orders, far-reaching in their effect.

On the recommendation of Secretary Francis and a forestry committee of the National Academy of Sciences appointed by Prof. Wolcott Gibbs, president of the academy, the president signed and promulgated 13 proclamations, establishing as many additional forest reservations, containing an aggregate area of 21,379,840 acres.

The location and area of the reservations are as follows:

No. 1. The Black Hills reserve in South Dakota, 967,630 acres.

No. 2. The Big Horn reserve in Northern central Wyoming, 1,198,080 acres.

No. 3. The Teton reserve, south and adjacent to the Yellowstone National park, 829,440 acres.

No. 4. The Flathead reserve in Northern Montana, 1,382,400 acres.

No. 5. The Lewis and Clarke forest reservation, 2,426,080 acres.

No. 6. The Priest river forest reserve occupies the basin of Priest Lake and Priest river, in the extreme Northern part of Idaho and Northeastern Washington; 552,960 acres in Idaho and 92,160 acres in Washington, total 645,120 acres.

No. 7. The Bitter Root forest reserve in Montana and Idaho, 4,417,200 acres, of which 691,200 are in Montana and 3,456,000 in Idaho.

No. 8. The Washington forest reserve in Washington, 3,540,240 acres.

No. 9. The Olympic forest reserve in Northwestern Washington, 2,188,800 acres.

No. 10. The Mount Ranier forest reserve, Southward along the two slopes of the Cascade mountains nearly to the Columbia river, 2,234,880 acres.

No. 11. The Stanislaus forest reserve in California, 691,200 acres.

No. 12. The San Jancinto forest reserve in Southern California, 737,280 acres.

No. 13. The Uintah forest reserve, in Northern Utah, area not estimated.

The commission is now engaged in perfecting a scheme of forest management which is believed will make the administration of the reserves possible.

AN AWFUL CRUSH.

Mrs. Cleveland's Reception to the Mothers' Congress.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Eighteen hundred women from the national congress of mothers called on Mrs. Cleveland yesterday. She will remember their visit all the rest of her life. The White House, every year the scene of crushes, has never witnessed such a crush before. The beautiful opal glass screen in the corridor was broken, dresses torn, and Mrs. Cleveland herself jostled about. This havoc was wrought because the women all tried to shake hands at once.

The first to arrive were herded into the east room; there they were packed to suffocation. Then the last end of the delegation was turned in through the corridor door, and through the red room into the blue room, where Mrs. Cleveland was standing. It was a case of the last shall be first, and it made some of the ladies angry to get left after they had rushed themselves out of breath to get there first. As soon as those in the east room found out what was going on, they began to crowd into the corridor and the scramble was fearful.

Mrs. Theodore Birney, of Washington, president of the congress, stood at Mrs. Cleveland's left, and attempted to introduce each caller by name to Mrs. Cleveland. There was the usual crowding back into the blue room, and it was all that the ushers could do to keep the ladies from mobbing Mrs. Cleveland in their anxiety to get a good look at her. They turned around and backed out in many instances in an awkward attempt to get a last look.

The ladies pushed and crowded until the whole scene was one of the utmost confusion. At 12 o'clock, before half of them had shaken Mrs. Cleveland's hand, she was obliged to excuse herself and withdraw to another part of the house, where she had an appointment with other visitors. Then the women on the edge of the crowd, gradually realizing that they had been crowded out, left the mansion, and not one failed to adjust her hat and draw a long breath as she stepped out into the open air.

FOR DEFICIENCIES.

Important Appropriation Bill Finished by House Committee.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The general deficiency bill was finished to-day by the House committee on appropriations and reported to the House. The total amount carried by the bill is $8,438,937. Most of the items are for deficiencies in the regular government service. The largest are as follows: Treasury department, $1,568,673; war department, $1,466,139; department of justice, $1,239,023; postal service (out of postal revenues), $1,764,526; judgments, court of claims, $1,602,916. Judgments Indian depredation claims, $136,871.

One of the largest appropriations carried by the bill is to pay the judgment for $1,310,000 secured by the Southern Pacific Railroad in the court of claims. It will be fought in the House. For completing the revenue steamer Hugh McCulloch for the Pacific Coast, $12,600 is appropriated and for her armament $22,700. There are the following river and harbor appropriations: For continuing work on the Mississippi from the head of the passes to the mouth of the Ohio, $625,000; for the Mississippi from the mouth of the Ohio to the mouth of the Missouri, $325,000; from the Missouri to St. Paul, $200,000.

An appropriation of $50,000 is made for the entertainment of the congress of the universal postal convention to meet in Washington next May. The postmaster general requested $200,000 for this purpose.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

Report of the House Committee on Monetary Conference Bill.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The report on the bill for an international monetary conference decided upon by the house committee on coinage, has been prepared by Mr. C. W. Stone, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the committee. It says that a belief exists that the American people intended and expect that an earnest and bona fide effort shall be made to reach an international agreement on the currency question, and to enable the executive to give effect to that intention, it is recommended that he be given full power to deal with the subject during his term of office. The prompt passage of the senate bill with an amendment providing for diplomatic negotiations if necessary therefore, is recommended.

Reference is made to the plank of the Republican platform in the last campaign, opposing the free coinage of silver except by international agreement by the leading commercial nations of the earth which the Republican party is pledged to promote and declaring that until such an agreement can be obtained the existing gold standard must be preserved. The report continues:

"There is nothing of ambiguity or uncertainty in this declaration. It is explicit, straightforward and complete. It must be accepted as expressing the will and purpose of the American people and their will should be the guide of their representatives. A pledge fairly made should be unhesitatingly fulfilled. Doubts as to the possibility of success do not absolve from the plighted obligation to attempt success."

MOTHERS' CONGRESS.

Plans for a National and Permanent Organization.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 19.—The national convention called for the purpose of bringing into existence a national association of mothers, is holding its concluding sessions to-day. It has been decided that the congress shall be an annual affair, and that the headquarters shall remain in this city until the next national gathering. In the meantime steps will at once be taken toward creating widespread interest in the movement, by the organization of state and local auxiliaries, and it is confidently expected that by the time of the next convention at least half a million women will have banded themselves together for the purpose of learning how to be good and efficient mothers, or of teaching the science of motherhood to others.

It is estimated that there are at least 12,000,000 women in the United States who have borne children, and of this immense army of mothers it is thought that there must be at least a twelfth that can be aroused to the needs of their own offspring, through the medium of local clubs and organizations devoted exclusively to questions relating to the rearing of children.

BIG PROCESSION.

Twelve Thousand Men an Hour Will Pass Given Point.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Additional notifications are being received from clubs and organizations that propose taking part in the inauguration parade, and when the procession moves it probably will be found to be unusually attractive in its military and civic features. If General Porter's intention to have the marchers pass a given point at the rate of 12,000 an hour is successfully carried out, it is probable that the parade will not occupy over three hours. The committee on street decorations has decided to adorn the approaches to the avenue on either side of the peace monument in an attractive manner.

Applications for places in the parade from civic organizations are now coming in rapidly.

FLORAL DECORATIONS.

Will Be the Feature of the Inaugural Ball.

Washington, Feb. 20.—While expectations have been high regarding the adornment of the inaugural ball room, it is believed that the result, when the decorations are completed will surpass them. On former occasions, the decorations were more in keeping with a coronation or a great military occasion. Brass and iron armor and shields and such medieval adornment seemed to be the order. This time, however, it was determined to make everything subservient to the floral decorations and to seek harmony rather than startling color in the theme of treatment. It is the opinion of the inaugural committee that the decorations will fully exceed anything of the kind ever attempted in Washington.

HEAVY TRAFFIC.

Passed Through the Suez Canal Last Year.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The business of the year just closed was the most remunerative ever experienced by the Suez canal, according to United States Consul General Penfield at Cairo, and the traffic aggregated almost $16,000,000 in value. The number of vessels using the waterway was 27 less than in the preceding year, but the tonnage was greater and the canal receipts were enhanced by the transit of a great number of Italian soldiers going to and from the Abyssinian war. British ships fell off in number, but still made up two-thirds of the traffic, while the German shipping in the canal increased. Not a single ship bearing the United States flag passed through the canal last year.

MONETARY CONFERENCE.

House Committee Decides in Favor of the Bill.

Washington, Feb. 20.—The House committee on coinage to-day decided to report favorably the Senate bill for an international monetary conference, with amendments authorizing the President, if he saw fit, to seek an agreement by diplomatic negotiations instead of a conference. Ten of the seventeen members of the committee were present, three Republicans, six Democrats and one independent, eight of whom are free silver men, and there was no dissent to the motion to report the bill to the House. Five Republicans absented themselves from the meeting.

PACIFIC RAILROADS.

Plans for a Commission Temporarily Abandoned.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Members of the House committee on Pacific railroads have practically decided to abandon the attempt to bring up in the House this session the bill for the establishment of a commission to settle the debts of the Pacific roads to the government. When application was made to the committee on rules for a day to consider a bill the committee wanted assurances that the opponents of the plan in the Senate would not take action in the House if it passed the bill. No such assurances could be given, and there probably will be no more effort to bring up the bill.

Wilson's Acceptance.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Postmaster General Wilson yesterday afternoon announced that he had accepted the presidency of the Washington and Lee University at Lexington, Va. The board fixed July 1 as the date on which the new president assumes the chair.

A NEW COMBINATION.

They Will Make a Try Against the Standard.

New York, Feb. 22.—The Pure Oil Company of New Jersey held its first annual meeting at Taylor's hotel, Jersey City, on Friday afternoon. The capital stock is $1,000,000. The company was organized to unite with the United States Pipe Line Company, the Producers and Refiners' Pipe Line Company, and the Producers' Oil Company, limited.

This was done at Friday's meeting. The capital stock is to be increased to $3,000,000. It is understood the organization will oppose the Standard Oil Company.

BLONDIN IS DEAD.

First Man to Cross Niagara on a Rope.

London, Feb. 23.—Jean Francois De Gravlot, renowned as Blondin, the rope walker, died last night. He was born in 1824, and began rope walking when only four years old. In 1859 Blondin crossed Niagara Falls in the presence of 50,000 people, it being the first time the feat had been attempted.

Australian Gold.

Washington, Feb. 19.—During the year 1896, according to the United States Consul General Maratta, at Melbourne, the gold received at the royal mint there amounted to 1,186,851 ounces as against 1,092,819 ounces in 1895.

OHIO RIVER RISING.

Cincinnati Likely to Be Flooded Again.

Cincinnati, Feb. 23.—For seventy-two hours, up to 7 o'clock last night, a steady rain has fallen over the entire area of the immense watershed of the Ohio valley, with the exception of the mountainous portions of Western New York and Western Pennsylvania, where the telegraph reports rains. Here last night it was drizzling from a black sky, that threatened heavy rainfall before morning, in which case conditions for a great flood would be present. Already in the past seventy-two hours there has been, by signal service measurements, a rainfall of three and eleven-hundredths inches.

On both sides of the Ohio from the Big Sandy, the boundary between West Virginia and Kentucky, the tributaries are at high flood tide. Mountains at headwaters of Kentucky, Cumberland, and Tennessee rivers, are delivering into these great tributaries with great rapidity floods of melted snow and rain, and filling the lower Ohio. All the tributaries of the left bank of the Ohio in Pennsylvania rise in the mountains, and there, too, the delivery of rainfall and melted snow is very rapid.

The rain has now ceased and the temperature has fallen until light ice has formed. These conditions, if continued, will do much toward lessening the height of the inevitable Ohio river flood. At 9 o'clock to-day the river had reached 51 feet 4 inches and was rising at the rate of four inches an hour. If this rate continues the water will be running into the Grand Central depot by 3 p. m. This will cause slight inconvenience in the transfer of passengers and baggage and will also disturb freight movements, but the roads all have high ground a short distance out where trains can be handled.

FUN IN MICHIGAN.

Proposition to Make the Potato Blossom the State Flower.

Lansing, Mich., Feb. 20.—The House committee on state affairs took facetious liberties with the heads of the present state administration. They saw a chance to do something funny with Representative Harris' bill to make the apple blossom the state's floral emblem, and changed the bill into the following:

"Whereas, A refined sentiment seems to call for the adoption of a state flower, and

"Whereas, The Irish potato is the most universally grown of all our vegetable products and has lately gained great political notoriety, and being a blossoming plant universally grown in this state, therefore,

"Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Michigan, that the Pingree Peachblow blossom be designated as the state flower of the state of Michigan."

There was a great laugh over this and many motions to refer to one committee or another, but it finally landed into the hands of the railroad committee.

The same committee joked with Representative Bates' bill to punish those who use profane language in country districts as well as in cities. The committee hitched to the bill the following: "Provided that this act shall not apply to the governor, mayor of Detroit, and under great provocation, the commissioner of railroads shall be exempt from the provisions of this act."

Col. Atkinson mildly reminded the members that they had a lot of serious business to do, and the bill was recommitted to be put into proper form.

ADMIRAL BUNCE

Recommends Extensive Changes in All His Fleet.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Admiral Bunce has sent to the navy department a report for nearly a million dollars' worth of work on his ships. He gives in detail the list of damages on board the ships of his squadron wrought by the storm en route to Charleston. It is the first full report which has come from that source regarding the effects of the wind and waves, and evidently represents Admiral Bunce's conclusions regarding the ships of the new navy.

He is not satisfied with any of the vessels, apparently, and of some of them he speaks in terms of emphatic criticism. He believes the armament of some of the ships is too great, and he has specified a number of instances where the guns should be reduced if the efficiency of the ships as navigable objects is to be maintained. The recommendation to decrease the guns of some of the ships is not altogether a surprise. It has been one of the minor controversies of the ordnance officers and constructors, in which the latter contended the ships were carrying greater weights of ordnance than was advisable.

The ordnance officers resent any suggestion such as that made by Admiral Bunce. They say the principal function of a warship is the transportation of guns, and that everything else must be economized, the stores and the armor minimized to make the ship efficient in its armament. Naturally if the reduction in weight can be obtained in any other manner to satisfy the demand made by Admiral Bunce, the ordnance people will hold out for the ordnance as at present arranged.

The other suggestions of Admiral Bunce will be as determinedly combated by the constructors. The work recommended would require that all of these new ships, some of them now on their first practical service, should be returned to Norfolk and kept in the hands of the constructors for six months or more.

Among the changes recommended is that the superstructure of the Amphitrite be removed. This is in line with the admiral's idea that the monitor should show nothing above the water line to serve as a target. He also recommends that the superstructure of the Maine be removed. He regards it of no value and as interfering with the efficiency of the ship.

The report suggests changes on all the vessels, even down to the small boat which was found so valuable in saving life in the midst of a storm. It is recommended of this boat, for instance, that it be lightened, its principal faults being its excessive weight and its surplus number of oars.

Neither the chief of ordnance nor the chief constructor will advise the Navy Department to carry out the suggestions of Admiral Bunce. In fact, both officials may be expected instead to write spirited replies to the admiral's criticisms.

LAST SURVIVOR.

Fought in the Black Hawk War Under Lincoln.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 23.—Philip Clark, the last survivor of the Black Hawk war, was buried Sunday in Clinton. He was 85 years old, and served in the war under Capt. Abraham Lincoln. His wife, aged 83 years, is dangerously ill.

American Rails Abroad.

New York, Feb. 19.—Important banking interests were yesterday informed that the Carnegie company had sold 50,000 tons of steel rails for export to London, the buyer being one of the largest English railways. Other sales of 50,000 tons were reported, making the exports foot up 100,000 tons.

Hobart's Plans.

New York, Feb. 17.—Garrett A. Hobart, Vice President-elect of the United States, will resign many of the business offices which are now associated with his name, and which might be deemed incompatible with his official position, on March 1.

I CURE FITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Postoffice address.

Prof. W. H. PEEKE, F. D., 4 Cedar St., New York.

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THE HARRISON BABY.

On Sunday Morning the Little One Came.

Indianapolis, Feb. 22.—Gen. Benjamin Harrison is a proud man today. He got up early Sunday morning to hear some news that made his usually solemn face relax into smiles. He was joyous and smiled when he received a bunch of messages from friends in this city congratulating him.

Mrs. Harrison had presented him with a bonny girl. The doctor announced that both she and the baby were doing well and that there was no need for anxiety on the general's part.

The ex-President got very little sleep. He was too anxious about the health of Mrs. Harrison to rest much. He was up at 5 o'clock when a message came to him that everything had gone on wonderfully well. Every father wants to know at once whether it is a boy or girl. Gen. Harrison was no exception. Every nurse is also eager to hunt for weighing scales as soon as the baby is ready to wear clothes, and Mrs. Barmuth was not the one to forget this little formality which is so satisfying.

Those who were present when the ex-President was told Mrs. Harrison had presented him with a baby girl thought he was a trifle disappointed. He may have wanted a boy. He had become very fond of his grandson, "Baby" McKee, and liked boys, anyway. But the shadow of disappointment was only momentary.

"She weighs eight and three-quarters pounds," exclaimed Mrs. Barmuth, in an enthusiastic way.

Gen. Harrison smiled and took the little one in his arms.

"Isn't she a dear, sweet little baby?" murmured Mrs. Barmuth.

Then she ventured to say something about who the baby looked like, but just what she did say is lost to history. Gen. Harrison was interested and carefully studied the features of the new member of the household. He did not venture an opinion, however. He acted just like other fathers who welcome additions to their families.

SENATOR WOLCOTT

Says His Mission to Europe Has Been Successful.

London, Feb. 20.—Senator Edward O. Wolcott, of Colorado, who has been visiting London and Berlin in the interests of bimetallism, returned here from the latter city. In an interview with a representative of the Associated Press the Senator said:

"I wish you would say to those interested in the United States that I return entirely encouraged with the result of my mission. I have good reason to believe that it will have some of the results hoped for. The exact objects for which I came over here have been largely misstated by the press of all countries, and their very nature made impossible any premature discussion, which could only have thwarted the whole object of my trip. I am, therefore, unable to contradict them or issue a statement on the subject. I am satisfied to abide by the result when all will be known.

"I have everywhere been received with the utmost courtesy and kindness by officials and financiers. I have not seen many bimetallists and could not give the time to accept their hospitalities, as to do so would be simply swinging around the circle and the passing anew of resolutions which were passed for years.

"The gold men were those I was after, and I must say they received me with every apparent desire to assist my plans so far as they could.

"I was received by Prince Hohenlohe with the utmost kindness and attention. I am afraid, from the statements of the North German Gazette (which, referring to the far-reaching bimetallic conclusions some newspapers attached to the visit, declared that the Senator's audience was purely one of courtesy), that some ardent silverite has been talking. But I saw none of them in Berlin, and the statements to which the North German Gazette refers were not inspired by me or by my acts. Of course, in coming here I took my fate and that of such a mission in my own hands.

"I repeat, I am entirely encouraged by the results."

IT SPROUTED.

Strange Result of Eating Unground Grain.

Hutchinson, Kan., Feb. 20.—Physicians of McPherson county report a strange case. Living in the northeast part of Reno county is a German farmer, Abram Kroeger. He sold his wheat some time ago to the Buhler mill, and it became necessary to have it delivered, even though the roads were heavy and muddy. In taking his wheat to mill Kroeger was in the habit of eating wheat. He was continually picking up a mouthful. He was taken sick a few days ago and his case baffled the doctors. Kroeger grew worse.

The doctors being unable to diagnose the case, and fearing death if no relief was given, an operation was determined upon. Thursday it was performed and over a quart of sprouted wheat taken from the stomach of the old German. The wheat had not been cracked, and not passing through the stomach, began to grow. Some of the sprouts were two inches long. Kroeger is in a bad shape, and it is doubtful if he will recover from the operation.

WANTS A DELEGATE.

Alaska Would Like to Break Into Congress.

San Francisco, Feb. 18.—L. G. Kaufman, a director of the Business Men's Association of Juneau, Alaska, is in the city as the representative of that organization to urge the Chamber of Commerce to memoralize Congress to grant Alaska one representative in the legislative body. Mr. Kauffman says the commercial and mining interests of the great northern territory are suffering from the lack of representation in Congress. He has visited Seattle, Tacoma, and Portland and the commercial bodies of those cities have adopted resolutions urging Congress to pass the bill now before it giving Alaska a representative which bill has been favorably reported by the committee on territories.

The officers of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce have given Mr. Kauffman a memorial which will be forwarded to Washington at once. The chamber will supplement this action at its next regular meeting.

MINING EXTENSION.

Extensive Improvements Contemplated About Leadville.

Leadville, Col., Feb. 20.—The Small Hopes Mining Co., of which S. W. Mudd is manager, has for some time been securing leases on properties which are or have been producers of rich ore and will at once increase the capacity of the pumping plant on the Marion in order to drain an immense section. When the new plant is in operation several shafts will be sunk to greater depths than heretofore known to this camp. The work will employ large forces and with numerous other enterprises of a similar nature now getting under way, gives promise of giving Leadville a larger payroll and insuring a greater production than ever known here, before the year has ended.

Men! Do not despair. Read Thos. Slater's offer on page [illegible]

SOUTH DAKOTA.

The Long Deadlock is at Last Broken.

Pierre, S. D., Feb. 19.—The break came in the senatorial deadlock yesterday when Senator Kyle was re-elected, the Republicans voting solidly for him, having dropped Pickler. The Republicans of the House voted almost solidly for Kyle, and the Republicans of the Senate began at once to change to him, so that before the result of the ballot was announced enough of the changes had been made to give Kyle 65 votes—three more than necessary to elect. The Populists shifted from man to man, but the Republicans stood solidly for Kyle. With the solid Republican vote, and with the Populists who stayed by him, Kyle secured enough votes to pull him through.

SENATOR KYLE.

MUST HAVE REST.

Maj. McKinley's Physician Turns Callers From the Door.

Canton, O., Feb. 23.—Callers at the McKinley residence are turned away from the door with the information, "Major McKinley is receiving no callers to-day."

Dr. T. H. Phillips, the family physician, has given instructions to that effect, and only members of the family and his secretaries gain access to his private office. The major's physician says he must have absolute freedom from care and disturbances to fully prepare him for the scenes of next week.

Dr. Phillips, when he called this morning, found his patient but very little better than yesterday and not in better condition to receive visitors than a week ago. The physician still maintains that there is nothing apprehensive in Major McKinley's state of health and that he will be fully able to travel to Washington next Monday. "Only absolute rest and freedom from official or other cares will leave him strong enough for the coming ceremonies. We want to inaugurate a well man on March 4 and we will do so and there need be no fear in that direction."

BESSEMER STEEL.

Some Statistics on the Production in America.

Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 22.—The American Iron and Steel Association has collected from the manufacturers complete statistics of the production of Bessemer steel ingots and Bessemer steel rails in the United States in 1896, except the comparatively small quantity of standard rails and street rails which was made by manufacturers from purchased blooms. In the statistics of ingots produced is included the production of the few Clapp-Griffiths and Robert-Bessemer plants, and also the production of steel castings by all Bessemer works and the single Walrand-Legenisel plant, of Chicago.

The total production of Bessemer steel ingots in 1896 was 3,919,906 gross tons against 4,909,128 tons in 1895, showing a decrease in 1896 of 989,222 tons, or over 20 per cent. The production of 1895 was much the largest in our history. The production of all kinds of Bessemer steel ingots by the producers of Bessemer steel ingots in 1896 was 1,192,892 gross tons against a similar production of 1,266,081 tons in 1895, 904,020 tons in 1894, 1,036,355 tons in 1893, and 1,458,732 tons in 1892.

Markets and Crops.

THE TRADE REVIEW.

Enormous Increase in Iron and Steel Business.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says:

A large increase in the iron and steel business on account of sales covering eight to twelve months production of the largest works, a better demand for woolen goods and slightly better for cottons, a gain which may prove lasting in boots and shoes, slightly better prices for wheat, cotton, wool and iron, and a money market well adapted to encourage liberal purchases against future improvement in business, have rendered the past week more hopeful than any other since early in November. The heavy excess of merchandise exports cover imports in January, the continuance of exchange rates showing that Europe is still largely indebted to this country on current account and the prospect that Congress will adjourn without any disturbing action, all have their favorable influence upon the money market and upon future undertakings. In nearly every branch, the great iron and steel industry feels the upward impulse supplied by purchases of steel rails, said to be half a million tons each from the Illinois Steel Company and from the Carnegie Company, besides some from other companies, in part as low as $15 per ton, about 100,000 to foreign purchasers at $17@18, but all recent sales at $20 to Eastern and at $21 at Western mills. Nearly all the great railroads of the country have seized the opportunity to supply themselves with rails for one or two years' requirements. These enormous orders have advanced Bessemer pig at Pittsburg only 15c per ton with grey forge a shade lower and no considerable change appears in finished products, allthough plates are unchanged in price with good demand and nails are held at recent prices. The bar association no longer controls anything and iron bars are quoted at $1.05 per 100 pounds while steel bars are quoted at 95 cents per 100 pounds. Structural forms are steady, although 100,000 to 150,000 tons are said to be required in New York alone this year, and American tin plates are still selling at $3.20, which is 70 cents less than foreign.

The heavy exports in January, following the unprecedented excess of exports over imports of merchandise in the four previous months, are largely due to the fact that neither the wheat nor the cotton markets have been materially controlled by speculation. Wheat dropped to 80.75 cents, but rose to 83.25 cents with no important impulse except the conviction that recent prices have been low enough. The Atlantic exports, flour included, were only 1,235,375 bushels for the week against 1,810,304 last year, but for three weeks have been 5,090,471 bushels against 5,448,429 last year. The Western receipts are still small, for the week only 1,507,845 bushels against 2,415,558 last year, and for the past three weeks only 4,609,240 bushels, against 8,328,771 last year. Meanwhile the Western receipts of corn have been well nigh double last year's, and for three weeks the Atlantic exports have been 6,317,214 bushels against 3,218,899 last year. Evidently this movement is displacing many million bushels of wheat in foreign consumption.

REVIEW OF WEEK'S BUSINESS.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE, Toledo, O., Feb. 23, 1897.

The following shows changes in government bonds during the past week:

	Feb. 23.	Feb. 16.
U. S. 4's (new), coupons	122⅝	122¼
U. S. 4's (new), registered	122⅝	122¼
U. S. 5's, coupons	113⅝	113⅝
U. S. 5's, registered	113⅝	113⅝
U. S. 4's, coupons	113	113
U. S. 4's, registered	111⅝	111
U. S. 2's, registered	95½	95½
Pacific 6's of '98	103⅝	103¼

Condition of the Grain Trade at the Close To-Day.

Wheat opened at ½@⅝c decline on Saturday's figures to-day, the factors of weakness being lower cables, subsidence of war excitement and good sized Northwestern receipts. There was an improved tone on the posting of visible supply which showed a good decrease. Cables were steadier, but there was not sufficient backbone to hold prices, and there was a decline on free offerings. Just at the close there was a trifle better tone. Trade was fairly well extended.

Corn was steady most of the time, and closed at about Saturday's prices. Trade was not heavy. At Chicago May corn opened at 24¼c, fell to 24⅛c, rose to 24⅜c, and closed at 24¼c bid; July, 25¾, 25⅝@25⅞c, 25⅝c, then 25⅝@25¾c. At New York May wheat opened at 80¼c, fell to 80c asked, rose to 80¼c, and closed at 80c bid; July, 79⅝c, close.

Prices of wheat to-day:

May.	Opened.	Highest.	Lowest.	Close.
Toledo	89¾	89⅞	88¾	88⅞
Chicago	76	76⅜	75	a75⅝
New York	81⅛	82	80¾	a81
St. Louis	84⅜	85¾	83⅞-84	84⅛-¼

At Chicago February wheat was worth 74c nominal; July, 72¼c, 73⅛c, 71⅞c, then 72⅛c asked. At New York July wheat opened at 79⅝c, rose to 80c, fell to 78⅝c asked, and closed at 78⅞c bid.

Export clearances to-day: Wheat, 137,782 bushels; flour, 26,636 barrels, or wheat and flour as wheat, 257,594 bushels.

Liverpool wheat opened ½d lower, closed unchanged.

London cargoes of wheat quiet but steady; on passage steady; cargoes of corn quiet but steady, on passage quiet but steady. English country markets quiet. French quiet. Liverpool wheat, spot, quiet; No. 1 November, ½d lower; futures quiet, ½d lower. Corn, spot, dull, ¼d lower; futures easy, ¼d lower.

Puts on May wheat at 1:30 p. m., 74½c bid; calls, 75¾c asked.

Primary receipts, 474,000 bushels of wheat, against 468,000 last year. Shipments, 204,000 bushels, against 247,000 last year. Receipts of corn, 1,132,000 bushels, against 576,000 last year. Shipments, 854,000 bushels, against 152,000 last year. Exports of corn last week over 6,000,000 bushels.

Pork for May at Chicago, $7.95; close, $7.95.

May oats at Chicago, 17¼c; close, 17⅛@17¼c.

Estimated receipts at Chicago for to-morrow: Wheat, cars, 20; corn, 290; oats, 340.

Black Sea shipments, 1,824,000 bushels.

The Argentine correspondent of the Economist says that the disaster to the wheat crop in the provinces of Santa Fe and entre Rios is complete. The in crops alone is $75,000,000 in currency.

The visible shows: Wheat, decrease, 1,448,000 bushels; corn, increase, 2,019,000 bushels; oats, increase, 71,000 bushels.

Receipts in the Northwest past 72 hours, 314,062 bushels of wheat; on track, 608 cars; same time last year, 568.

Visible supply in United States and Canada on date named:

	Feb. 20.	Feb. 13.
Wheat	45,215,000	46,658,000
Corn	26,413,000	24,394,000
Oats	13,565,000	13,494,000
Rye	3,726,000	3,901,000

The Close at Toledo—Wheat Lower.

As compared with Saturday last at the Toledo exchange cash wheat is 1½c up; May, 1½c, and July 1c better. Trade slow and prices steadier at the close after much weakness.

No. 2 soft red wheat, 87½c bid; No. 3 soft red, 85½c, 85¼c, then 85½c; rejected No. 1, 78c, 77c, 78c, then 80c.

May wheat opened at 89¼c, rose to 89⅜c, fell to 88⅛c, and closed at 88⅞c; July, 73⅛c, 76⅛c, 75c, then 75⅛c.

Corn—Active, Higher.

Trade in corn was active and fractionally higher, closing easy; No. 2 mixed corn, 23c; No. 2 corn, 22½c; No. 4 corn, 21½c, close 20c; No. 3 yellow, 22½c, close 22c; No. 2 May, 24½c.

Oats dull, steady; No. 2 mixed, 17½c; No. 2 May, 17⅜c.

Rye steady; No. 2, 36½c; No. 3, 34½c; rejected, 30c, close 27c.

Clover seed active and a little higher; prime March, $4.72½; No. 2 seed, $4.10, $4.00, then $4.40, rejected, $3.50@3.55; buckhorn, $4.00. Receipts, 252 bags; shipments, 1,005.

Grain in store at Toledo:

	Feb. 20.	Feb. 13.
Wheat	1,045,663	1,103,444
Corn	1,549,988	1,291,157
Oats	80,309	178,631
Rye	90,747	118,501

Toledo Produce Market.

Trade to-day was fair all around. Butter holds steady with supply equal to demand. Eggs are firm but without change. Vegetables unchanged. New vegetables are in the market.

Butter—Elgin creamery, 20c; Ohio and Michigan creamery, 17@19c; Ohio and Indiana dairy roll, 10@11c; Michigan dairy roll, 11@13c.

Eggs—Strictly fresh, dozen, 15@16c.

Cheese—Full cream, pound, 10@10½c; part skim, 7@8c; full skim, 3@5c.

Vegetables—Potatoes, bu., 20@22c; celery, 30@50c; rutabagos, bu., 30c; parsnips, bu., 30c; carrots, bu., 25c; cabbages, Holland, 1½c per lb.; per dozen, 50c for home-grown; onions, bu., $1; beans, bu., 80@85c; turnips, bu., 20c; green onions, dozen bunches, 12½c; pie-plant, dozen, 25c; radishes, doz. bunches, 25c.

Poultry—Chickens, dressed, lb., 7½@8½c; turkeys, dressed, 11½@12½c; ducks, dressed, 10½@11½c; geese, dressed, 9½@10½c.

Fruits—Pine-apples, dozen, $1.25@2.00; apples, bu., 25@40c; lemons, box, $2.50@3.00; oranges, box, $3.50; cranberries, quart, 8c.

Apple-butter, per gallon, 50c.

Dressed Meats—Hogs, per 100 lbs., $3.50@4.00; beef, lb., 3½@7c; sheep, lb., 5½@6c; lambs, lb., 6@7c; veal, lb., 6½@7c.

Smoked Meats—Hams, sugar-cured, heavy, lb., 9c; light hams, 9½@10c; mess pork, $7; short mess, 9c; short clear, 10c; breakfast bacon, rib, 8½c; clear, 10c; bologna sausage, lb., 5c; pork sausage, lb., 5c; home made country sausage, lb., 10c; scrapple, lb., 8c.

Timothy Seed—$1.60@1.75, as to quality.

Wool—Unwashed, 8@13c; washed, 12@18c; tub washed, 17c.

Lard—No. 1 kettle, cans of 3, 5 and 10 lbs., 7c; 50 lbs., 6c.

Hay—Car lots, choice timothy, ton, $10; No. 1 hay, $9.50; No. 2 hay, $8.50.

Straw—Car lots, bright rye, $6.00; wheat straw, $5.00; oat straw, $5.00.

Corn fodder, shredded, $5.00@6.00.

Feed—Bran, ton, $9; middlings, $10; chop feed, ton, car lots, $12; car lots, No. 2, $10; coarse meal, $10.

Ear corn, bushel, 15c; shelled corn, bu., 80c.

Hides—Green, No. 1 cows and light hides, lb., 6@6½c; No. 2's, 5c; heavy steers, No. 1, 6½c; bulls and No. 2's, 5c; green calf, No. 1, 8c; No. 2's, 6½c; kip, No. 1, 7c; No. 2's, 5½c; cured No. 1 hides, 7½c; No. 2's, 6½c; No. 1 calf, cured, 9½c; No. 2's, 8c; sheep pelts, 25@60c.

Flour—Spring patent, barrel, $4.75@5.25; winter patents, $5.00@5.50; winter straight, $4.50@5.00; buckwheat flour, per ton, $30.

Rock salt, ton, $7; pork packing salt, bbl., 90c; eastern salt, $1; Michigan, 75c.

Furs—Muskrat, 5@14c; skunk, 10@75c; raccoon, 10@75c; mink, 25@$1.00; red fox, $1.00@1.25; gray fox, 50c; deer hides, 75c@$1.25.

Tallow—Per lb., 3@3¼c.

Beeswax—Per lb., 20@25c.

Petroleum—Prime, white, Ohio test, 7½c; water white, 8½c; headlight, 9½c; silver light, 9c; cocene, 10½c; stove gasoline, 9½c, 63 test naphtha, 7½c.

Grain and Produce.

New York, Feb. 23.—Butter—Receipts, 4,284 pkgs.; weak; western creamery, 12@19c; Elgins, 19c; factory, 7@13c. Cheese—Receipts, 507 pkgs.; quiet; state, large, 9@12¼c; state, small, 9@12¼c; part skims, 5@9½c; full skims, 3@3½c. Eggs—Receipts, 4,489 pkgs.; quiet; state and Pennsylvania, 19½c; western, 13@18½c; southern, 17½c. Sugar—Raw firm. Coffee—Quiet.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—Close: Wheat—February 74c; May, 75⅝c; July, 72⅛c; September, 70⅛c. Corn—February, 23c; May, 24½c; July, 25⅝@25¾c; September, 26⅞@27c. Oats—February, 15⅝c; May, 17⅛@17¼c; July, 18⅝c. Pork—February, $7.85; May, $7.95; July, $8.07½. Lard—February, $3.87½; May, $3.97½@4.00; July, $4.07½. Ribs—February, $4.05; May, $4.07½; July, $4.15. Flax—Cash, 73½@74c; cash, northwestern, 76½c; May, 76½c; July, 78c; September, 79⅞@80c. Timothy—Cash, $2.65; March, $2.70. Rye—Cash, 33⅝c; May, 35c. Barley—Cash, No. 3, 22½@32c.

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 22.—(Special to The Blade.) Cash market to-night closes as follows: Corn—No. 2 yellow, 26½c; No. 3 yellow, 25½c; No. 2 mixed, 25½c; No. 3 mixed, 25c. Oats—No. 2 white, 21½c; No. 3 white, 20c; No. 4 white, 19c; No. 2 mixed, 19½c; No. 3 mixed, 18½c. Wheat—No. 2 red, 90c; No. 1 white, 90c; rejected, 67c. Hay and straw—No. 1 timothy, $11.75; No. 2 timothy, $10.75; No. 1 clover, mixed $10.50. Wheat straw, $6.00; oat straw, $6.00; market steady. Demand fair.

Live Stock.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—Hogs—Official receipts yesterday, 42,163; shipments, 7,989; estimated receipts to-day, 28,000; left over, 4,000; estimated receipts to-morrow, 40,000; market active barely steady; light, $3.45@3.62½; mixed, $3.40@3.55; heavy $3.20@3.55. Cattle—Official receipts yesterday, 13,784; shipments, 2,296; receipts to-day, 3,500; market steady; beeves, $3.50@5.10; cows and heifers, $1.80@4.15. Texas steers, $3.00@4.15; stockers and feeders, $3.20@4.20. Sheep—Official receipts yesterday, 19,586; shipments, 1,843; receipts to-day, 7,000; market stronger.

East Buffalo N. Y., Feb. 23.—(Elrich Bros.' report, exclusive to The Blade.)—Sheep and Lambs—No fresh arrivals; about 30 loads carried over; market dull, lower; prime grades, $5.10@5.15; fair to good, 70 to 80 lbs., $4.60@5.00; culls and common, $4.00@4.25; sheep steady; mixed, $3.90@4.10; prime, $4.25; culls and common, $2.00@2.75. Cattle—Four cars Canadian feeders carried over; market steady. Hogs—Receipts, 10 cars; pigs, $3.70; Yorkers, $3.80; mediums, $3.75; heavy, $3.70.

Union Stock Yards, Cleveland O., Feb. 23.—Bower & Bower say: Hogs—Receipts, 11 cars; market active and steady to 5c lower on light; Yorkers and lights, $3.70@3.75; mediums and heavies, $3.60; pigs, $3.50@3.60; stags and roughs, $2.25@3.00; closing steady. Sheep and Lambs—Receipts light; market steady; sheep, $2.00@3.50; lambs, $3.50@4.75. Cattle—Receipts light; market active and steady; steers, $3.50@4.85; heifers, $3.00@3.70; cows and bulls, $2.25@3.00.

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DAY ON WALL STREET.

Close of the Stock Market at New York This Afternoon.

New York, Feb. 23.—Advices from abroad indicated that more confidence in the political outlook on the London and continental bourses, where prices were higher, in marked contrast with yesterday's demoralization in values on account of the bombardment of the Cretan insurgents by the war ships of the powers. This prepared the local bulls for an onslaught against the bears in the initial dealings. On liberal purchases for both accounts prices stiffened generally, with Tobacco scoring the extreme improvement of 1¼ per cent. Leather preferred, however, soon developed weakness, and yielded 2 per cent to 55½ on apprehension as to the character of the annual report, and as to the action of the current dividend disbursed. Weakness in this specialty led to a sympathetic decline in the other industrials, with Tobacco figuring for 1¼ and Sugar ⅛. The railway list was fairly well held, with the internationals in most request.

The market soon lapsed into excessive dullness, but steadiness was apparent, and some of the more depressed stocks rallied sharply; the industrials monopolized the dealings with the traders' lending effective aid to the speculative shares. Bonds were prominently dealt in, but prices were irregular and mainly lower, the 5's coupons exceptionally attaining 113⅝ on the purchase of a block of $100,000.

The prices of stocks have undergone but slight change during the second hour of trading, the firmness of tone being, however a notable feature. Hocking Valley moved up 1¼ per cent on rumors of an advantageous plan for reorganization of the property. Leather preferred was conspicuous for a rise of 1½, but the common stock fell off ¼. Northwest was well held, despite a decrease in the January gross earnings of $351,233. The bond market was also extremely apathetic, but prices were generally well sustained. The sales of stock to noon were 46,500 shares.

New York, Feb. 23.—Money on call nominally at 1½@2 per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 3@4 per cent. Sterling exchange steady, with actual business in bankers' bills at $4.87@4.87¼ for demand and at $4.85@4.85¼ for 60 days; posted rates, $4.85½@4.86 and $4.89; commercial bills, $4.84. Silver certificates, 64¾@65⅛c; no sales. Bar silver, 64⅝c. Mexican dollars, 50⅝c.

Corrected daily by Kuhn & Co.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Del. & Hud.	107¾	....	....	108
Hocking Valley	6	....	....	6¼
Jersey Central	97	97⅞	97	97
D. L. & W.	154½	154½	154	154
Reading	24¼	24⅜	24⅛	24¼
Ten. Coal & Iron	27	27¼	26⅞	26⅞
Atchison pfd	23	23¼	23	23
*C. B. & Q.	73⅞	74½	73⅞	74¼
Mo. Pacific	20¼	20⅜	20¼	20¼
Northwest	104	....	....	104¼
Nor. Pac. pfd	38⅛	....	....	38
Omaha	49¼	....	....	49¾
Rock Island	66⅞	67	66⅝	66⅞
St. Paul	75⅝	76¼	75½	76⅛
A. S. Co. pfd	82⅝	....	....	82⅝
Am. S. Co.	13⅝	13⅝	13⅜	13⅝
Chicago Gas	76⅞	....	....	77⅛
Gen. Elec	34½	35	34¼	34⅞
Leather pfd	57¼	57⅞	55½	56⅛
Lead	23¾	....	....	23¾
Sugar	113⅝	114½	113	114⅛
Am. Tobacco	73	74¼	71⅞	74
Erie	14⅛	....	....	14⅛
L. & N.	49¼	....	....	49⅛
Manhattan	87¼	88⅝	87¼	88¼
K. T. pfd	29⅝	30	29½	29⅞
Southern Ter.	28⅛	....	....	28⅛
Pacific Mail	24½	....	....	25
Western Union	82¼	....	....	82⅜
Wabash pfd	15⅜	....	....	15⅜
Can. Southern	44⅞	....	....	44⅞
Lake Shore	157	....	....	157
N. Y. C.	93	....	....	93

*Dividend 1 per cent.

Trade.

During the past week there has been a little improvement in some lines of trade, but on the whole business has not been active.

Louisville Tobacco Market.

Louisville, Feb. 20.—There has been great activity in tobacco during the past week. The pressure to sell under heavy receipts has been excessive. The market has remained very strong. There wa sno change in the price of good tobacco. Receipts of dark tobacco have been light. Official quotations are:

1895 CROP.

Red Burley.

Trash (green or mixed)	$2.00
Trash (sound)	2.00@ 3.00
Common lugs	3.00@ 4.50
Medium lugs	4.50@ 6.00
Good lugs	6.00@ 7.50
Common leaf short)	6.00@ 7.50
Common leaf	7.50@ 9.00
Medium leaf	9.00@11.00
Good leaf	11.00@14.00
Fine and selections	14.00@18.50

Colory Burley.

Trash (green or mixed)	3.00
Trash (sound)	3.00@ 4.50
Common lugs	4.50@ 7.00
Medium lugs	7.00@ 8.00
Good lugs	8.00@10.00
Common leaf (short)	6.00@ 8.00
Common leaf	8.00@11.00
Medium leaf	11.00@13.00
Good leaf	13.00@16.00
Fine and selections	16.00@20.00

Dark.

Trash (green or mixed)	1.25
Trash (sound)	1.25@ 1.75
Common lugs	1.75@ 2.50
Medium lugs	2.25@ 2.75
Good lugs	2.75@ 3.50
Common leaf (short	2.50@ 3.75
Common leaf	2.75@ 4.75
Medium leaf	4.75@ 6.00
Good leaf	6.00@10.00

1896 CROP.

Red Burley.

Trash (greenor mixed)	1.50
Trash (sound)	1.50@ 2.50
Common lugs	2.50@ 4.50
Medium lugs	4.50@ 6.00
Good lugs	6.00@ 7.00
Common leaf (short)	6.00@ 7.00
Common leaf	7.00@ 9.00
Medium leaf	9.00@11.00
Good leaf	11.00@13.00
Fine and selections	19.75

Colory Burley.

Trash (green or mixed)	2.25
Trash (sound)	3.25@ 4.25
Common lugs	4.25@ 5.00
Medium lugs	5.00@ 6.00
Good lugs	6.00@ 7.00
Common leaf (short)	6.00@ 7.00
Common leaf	7.00@ 9.00
Medium leaf	9.00@11.00
Good leaf	11.00@13.00
Fine and selections	13.75

New York Cotton Market.

New York, Feb. 23.—The cotton market opened quiet but firm at an advance of 1 to 3 points on active Liverpool cables, which were better owing to th eimproved situation in Crete. New Orleans was the principal seller, with local traders buyers. Liverpool bought March and May in a small way against sales of new crop positions. At 10:45 there was a decline of 3 points on lower late cables and estimate of liberal receipts at the ports. Trading during the first hour was fairly active, sales reaching 6,000 bales. At 11 o'clock the market was quiet but steady at a net gain of 2@3 points. Spot steady; middling uplands, 7⅛c; middling gulf, 7⅜c. Futures opened quiet and firm; sales 7,300 bales; March, $6.90; April, $6.93; May, $7.00; June, $7.07; July, $7.12; August, $7.13; September, $6.77; October, $6.67; November $6.66; December, $6.70.

Wool.

Bradstreet's says of the past week's wool market: The market remains firm, with sales freer when the recent large business is considered. Boston sales the past week have been more than 6,000,000 lbs., about equally divided between domestic and foreign. Sales in that market since January 1 foot up about 54,000,000 lbs., which is the largest business for eigh tconsecutiveweek sinthehistoryofth for eight consecutive weeks in the history of the trade. Territory wools have been considerably reduced in stock through the large purchases, but prices are no higher, although the market is firm. Fleece wools are in light supply, and prices have hardened somewhat. Choice XX and above Ohio fleece is quotable at 20c, and some holders ask higher. Australian wools sell well at full prices, the prospect of a duty being put on raw material inducing a free demand. South American wools have been bought more freely of late, while Cape wools are steady. More doing in carpet wools.

Blending Corn With Wheat.

The Cincinnati Price Current concludes of articles on the blending of corn and wheat as follows: "Justifiable observations in passing are that the trade in blended flour appears to be mostly if not practically altogether confined to Southern markets; that the flour thus distributed is not injured in quality for the consumer, while lessened in cost to him; that the trade mills of the country, and particularly those doing an export business, are not to be regarded as likely to take any chances concerning the reputation of their brands by any deviation from previous practices. So far as the displacement of flour by corn product is concerned, the greater influence by far will be due to the enlarged absorption of corn meal, for which the retail grocery trade very widely are experiencing a call greatly in contrast with the past. Why should it not be so, when this wholesome product is being sold in small quantities at less than one cent per pound?"

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